



MARCH OF ANGER

Egyptian Army soldiers stand guard outside the Rabaah al-Adawiya mosque, in the center of the largest protest camp of supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi, that was cleared by security forces, in the district of Nasr City, Cairo, Egypt, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013.

(AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

Tense Cairo Expecting New Protests After Friday Prayers

DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
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CAIRO - Gathering Thursday morning around a mosque used as a morgue for hundreds killed the day before, many Islamists waited confidently for a surge of sympathetic support from the broader public. But it failed to materialize. With their leaders jailed or silent, Islamists reeled in shock at the worst mass killing in Egypt's modern history. By Thursday night, health officials had counted 638 dead and nearly 4,000 injured, but the final toll was expected to rise further. A tense quiet settled over Cairo as the city braced

for new protests by the supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi after Friday prayers. The Muslim Brotherhood has called for a 'March of Anger' on Friday. The new government authorized the police to respond with lethal force if they felt endangered. Many of those waiting outside the makeshift morgue talked of civil war. Some blamed members of Egypt's Coptic Christian minority for supporting the military takeover. A few argued openly for a turn to violence. "The solution might be an assassination list," said Ahmed, 27, who like oth-

ers refused to use his full name for fear of reprisals from the new authorities. "Shoot anyone in uniform. It doesn't matter if the good is taken with the bad, because that is what happened to us last night." Mohamed Rasmy, a 30-year-old engineer, interrupted. "That is not the solution," he said, insisting that Islamist leaders would re-emerge with a plan "to come together in protest." Despite the apparently wide support for the police action by the private news media and much of Cairo, he argued that the bloodshed was now turning the rest of the public against

the military-appointed government. "It is already happening," he said. The outcome of the internal Islamist debate may now be the most critical variable in deciding the next phase of the crisis. The military-backed government has made clear its determination to demonize and repress the Islamists with a ruthlessness exceeding even that of Gamal Abdel Nasser, the autocrat who first outlawed the Muslim Brotherhood six decades ago. How the Islamists respond will inevitably reshape both their movement and Egypt.

Will they resume the accommodationist tactics of the Muslim Brotherhood under former President Hosni Mubarak, escalate their street protests despite continued casualties, or turn to armed insurgency as some did in the 1990s? President Barack Obama, interrupting a weeklong vacation to address the bloodshed, stopped short of suspending the \$1.3 billion in annual U.S. military aid to Egypt but canceled joint military exercises scheduled to take place in a few months.

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Tense Cairo Expecting New Protests

Continued from Front

Instead of "reconciliation" after the military takeover, "we've seen a more dangerous path taken through arbitrary arrests, a broad crackdown on Mr. Morsi's associations and supporters, and now tragically the violence that's taken the lives of hundreds of people and wounded thousands more," Obama said, adding that "our traditional cooperation cannot continue as usual when civilians are being killed in the streets and rights are being rolled back."

state, Denmark, cut off support. The British and French summoned their Egyptian ambassadors to condemn the violence. In Ankara, Turkey, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, an ideological ally of Morsi's, called for an early meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss what he called a "massacre."

Egyptian Islamists continued to lash out across the country. Scores of them blocked a main highway circling the capital. In Alexandria, hundreds battled with opponents and the police in the streets, and

accuse me of sectarianism," said Mamdouh Hamdi, 35, an accountant.

The Islamist movement, usually known here for its tight discipline, appeared to slip loose from its leaders, entering perilous new ground, said Ali Farghaly, 47, an executive at a multinational company who was waiting outside the mosque. "Forget the leaders now," he said. "The streets are leading this, and when things get out of the control of the leaders, no one can predict the situation."

But if the Islamists hoped



President Barack Obama makes a statement to the media regarding events in Egypt, from his rental vacation home in Chilmark Mass., on the island of Martha's Vineyard, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013. The president announced that the US is canceling joint military exercise with Egypt amid violence.

Soon after his speech, the State Department issued an advisory warning U.S. citizens living in Egypt to leave "because of the continuing political and social unrest." The government in Cairo accused Obama of failing to grasp the nature of the "terrorist acts" Egypt is facing.

A statement issued by the office of interim President Adly Mansour said Obama's remarks "would strengthen the violent armed groups and encourage them in their methods inimical to stability and the democratic transition."

In Europe, some officials called for a suspension of aid by the European Union, and at least one member

health officials said at least nine died. Others hurled firebombs that ignited a provincial government headquarters near the pyramids in Giza. In the latest in a string of attacks on Coptic Christian churches and businesses, at least one more church was set fire, in Fayoum.

Outside the mosque in Cairo, some Islamists contended that the Coptic pope, Tawadros II, had appeared to endorse the crackdown, and they portrayed attacks on churches around the country as a counterattack.

"When Pope Tawadros comes out after a massacre to thank the military and the police, then don't

that Wednesday's violence would turn the rest of the country against the military-dominated government, there were few signs of it Thursday. Mohamed ElBaradei, the interim vice president and a Nobel Prize-winner, was the only official to resign over the crackdown, and he was widely criticized for it in both the state and the private media.

The ultraconservative Nour Party, the liberal April 6 group and the far-left Revolutionary Socialists spoke out against the killings. But most other political factions denounced the Islamists as a terrorist threat and applauded the government action. □

Global Reactions to Egypt Crisis

The Associated Press

Official reaction Thursday from governments around the world to clashes between Egyptian security forces and supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi, in which hundreds of people were killed and thousands injured:

EUROPEAN UNION

Senior EU diplomats will meet Monday in Brussels to discuss the situation in Egypt and possible EU action, said Eamonn Prendergast, a spokesman for the bloc's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton. He said the diplomats will decide whether to convene an emergency meeting of the bloc's foreign ministers on Egypt. The EU is a major source of aid, loans and business for Egypt, including European sun-seekers vacationing in the Red Sea resorts.

IRAN

Iran's new president is calling on the Egyptian army to stop "suppressing" the Egyptian people. "I warn Egypt's military that Egyptians are a great and freedom-seeking nation. Do not suppress them," President Hasan Rouhani in a speech in parliament broadcast live on Iranian state TV. He condemned what he said was army "brutality."

RUSSIA

Russia's Foreign Ministry has urged its citizens to refrain from traveling to Egypt. The Russian Tourism Board had estimated that up to 60,000 Russian travelers were now in Egypt. Russian tourists have been advised to avoid big cities and rallies but diplomats have not urged Russians to stay away from the country altogether.

FRANCE

French President Francois Hollande summoned Egypt's ambassador and said "everything must be done to avoid civil war." In a statement issued after the meeting, Hollande also said he "condemned in the strongest way possible the bloody violence in Egypt and demanded the immediate end to the repression." "The liberation of prisoners, while respecting the ongoing judicial procedures, could constitute a first step toward renewing negotiations," Hollande added.

GERMANY

Germany's Foreign Office summoned the Egyptian ambassador. Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, speaking from Tunis, said the ambassador was told "that the bloodshed must come to an end now." Germany also "strongly discouraged" its citizens from traveling to Egypt, especially Cairo, the Nile Delta and the Nile River tourist areas of Luxor and Aswan. The beach resorts of Hurghada and Sharm El-Sheik were not affected.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The United Arab reaffirmed its support for the crackdown. "What is regretful is that political extremist groups have insisted on the rhetoric of violence, incitement, disruption of public interests and undermining of the Egyptian economy, which has led to the regretful events today," it said in a statement Thursday in English. The UAE provided \$3 billion of the \$12 billion total financial aid promised by wealthy Arab Gulf nations to Egypt following Morsi's overthrow.

VATICAN

Pope Francis urged prayers for "peace, dialogue and reconciliation for that dear land." □

Kerry warns of rising threat from al-Qaida in Iraq

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top U.S. and Iraqi diplomats warned Thursday of a rising threat in Iraq from al-Qaida, which is carrying out suicide and car bombings with greater frequency nearly two years after U.S. troops withdrew from the country.

Secretary of State John Kerry and Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari also discussed how to stop Iraqi airspace from being used to ferry weapons and illicit cargo from Iran to the embattled Syrian government and how to stem the flow of weapons and extremist fighters into Iraq from neighboring Syria.

"It's a two-way street. It's a dangerous street," Kerry said.

The two met on the same day that a wave of car bombs hit the Iraqi capital, killing 33 people and wounding dozens. More than 3,000 people have been killed during the past few months, including 69 who died last weekend in a series of car bombings targeting those celebrating the end of Ramadan. "Iraq sits at the intersection of regional currents of increasingly turbulent, violent and unpredictable actions,"

Kerry said. "Sunni and Shia extremists on both sides of the sectarian divide throughout the region have an ability to be able to threaten Iraq's stability if they're not checked."

"And al-Qaida, as we have seen, has launched a horrific series of assaults on innocent Iraqis, even taking credit for the deplorable bombings this past weekend that targeted families that were celebrating the Eid holiday. And this al-Qaida network, we know, stretches well beyond Iraq's borders."

In 2011 and 2012 there was an average of five to 10 suicide bombings a month, according to a senior administration official familiar with Kerry's talks with his Iraqi counterpart. They have averaged about 30 in each of the past three

months and it's suspected that the suicide attackers are mostly coming from Syria, indicating a fairly sophisticated al-Qaida network, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the meeting.

The official said the U.S. wants to share intelligence by rounding up too many people or targeting the wrong person. The overflights in Iraq, which officials say they are confident that the planes are being used to arm and support Syrian President Bashar Assad's fight against U.S.-backed opposition forces. In 2012, then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton secured a pledge from Iraq to inspect the flights, but until March when her successor, Kerry, visited

and help the Iraqis map the network and disrupt its financing. Also, the U.S. is encouraging Iraq to make precision attacks against perpetrators to avoid aggravating the fragile security situation in the country

is sandwiched between Iran and Syria, long have been a source of contention between the U.S. and Iraq.

Iraq and Iran claim the flights are carrying humanitarian goods, but American

Assad's fight against U.S.-backed opposition forces. In 2012, then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton secured a pledge from Iraq to inspect the flights, but until March when her successor, Kerry, visited



Secretary of State John Kerry gestures as he talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari at the State Department in Washington, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013. Kerry met Thursday with the foreign minister, and said that since he visited Baghdad in March, some progress has been made to stop Iraq from being a transit zone for weapons. But he says "very significant" progress has yet to be made. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

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Baghdad, only two aircraft had been checked by Iraqi authorities, according to U.S. officials. □

Expert:

Soldier shot 12 times in Fort Hood attack

MICHAEL GRACZYK
NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — One of the soldiers killed during the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood suffered a dozen gunshot wounds that indicate he was trying to charge the gunman, while another victim was pregnant, medical experts testified Thursday at the military trial of the Army psychiatrist charged in the attack.

The two were among 13 people killed when a gunman opened fire inside a crowded medical building at the sprawling Army post in Texas on Nov. 5, 2009. The accused shooter, Maj. Nidal Hasan, also is accused

of wounding more than 30 people as he stands trial for the worst mass shooting ever on a U.S. military base. Hasan — who is acting as his own attorney — raised no objections and didn't question any of the witnesses Thursday, which has largely been his strategy since the trial began last week. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.

The bullet wounds that riddled Spc. Frederick Greene's body were "consistent" with him trying to charge his attacker, Lt. Col. Phillip Berran testified. The pathologist had reviewed photos of Greene's body for the judge before jurors were led into the court-

room at Fort Hood. Another victim, Pvt. Francheska Velez, was shot once by a bullet that fractured her rib and went through her heart and right lung — a wound that wasn't survivable, said pathologist Col. AbuBakr Marzouk.

When asked if the 21-year-old Chicago woman had any other significant medical conditions, Marzouk replied: "She was pregnant." Witnesses testified earlier in the trial that they would hear Velez crying out, "My baby! My baby!" during the shootings.

Berran also described how Pfc. Aaron Nemelka, who was shot three times, was likely shot while lying on

the ground. That means at least five victims were shot while lying down, according to testimony from several pathologists this week. Hasan's lack of defense so far has allowed prosecutors to call more than 70 witnesses, indicating that the trial could wrap up far sooner than the months-long timeline originally announced by the judge.

The military defense attorneys who have been ordered to help Hasan during the trial have accused Hasan of trying to convince jurors to convict him and sentence him to death. Hasan, a U.S.-born Muslim, has disputed those claims, calling them a twist of the facts. □

In the summer heat, US politics cools for a while

STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's not quite the August exodus from Paris, but the fizz and crackle grows quiet in Washington this time of year and America's political heart beats far more slowly. Lawmakers have repaired to home districts and President Barack Obama is spending his fourth summer holiday on the tony island of Martha's Vineyard.

The fire beneath Washington's cauldron of political invective is down to a simmer; The stately halls of the Capitol are largely silent. Tourists still peer through the black metal bars of the White House fence, unaware, perhaps, that all the Obamas, even dog Bo, have left.

Smatterings of political pot-shots shatter the quiet, mostly from around the 50 states as members of Congress try to keep their political ranks fired up for the ideological battle to resume next month. When the weather cools in the famously humid capital, a series of prickly issues await about America's econom-

ic pathway.

Deeply conservative Republicans, especially the party's tea party wing, will be putting up a renewed fight to prevent an increase in the government's borrowing power. A tussle over the debt ceiling — an issue that in less partisan times slid through Congress without debate — caused the U.S. credit rating to be low-

ered for the first time ever in 2011. A last minute deal prevented the country from defaulting on its bills that time around.

A storm over the budget is also brewing. Some of the more conservative Republicans, determined to unravel Obama's signature health care overhaul, are threatening to use congressional power over

the purse strings to force a government shutdown if Democrats don't agree to big cuts from money to implement the program. A struggle over snarled immigration reform legislation also looms.

As is often the case, foreign affairs intrude on the August torpor. Obama was forced to interrupt his vacation this week address the violence

in Egypt, where more than 600 people have died in a crackdown on supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi. Obama canceled plans for joint American-Egyptian military exercises and warned that continued fighting would lead Egypt down a "dangerous path." Back in Washington, many locals just want the August lull to end. Washington is a one-industry city where nearly everyone depends on politics for their livelihood. Cab driver Azizi Faiz said business drops off dramatically in August. He claimed by as much as 50 percent. "It's like fishing. Most days you end up catching a sardine and throwing it back. Some days there's a good catch, and that keeps you going. We're like school teachers," he said. "We stretch nine months of pay over the whole year." The tourists don't help. "They take the shuttle buses or walk," Faiz said.

Ashok Bajaj owns eight restaurants in Washington, some of the top eateries in the city that is an increasingly serious food destination. About three decades ago, he began with a classy Indian food place, The Bombay Club, a couple of blocks from the White House.

"When I opened and then July and August came around, I said, 'Wow, restaurants only have six months of life. I didn't know everybody disappeared in summer and didn't come back until the middle of September.'"

He estimates business falls off as much as 15 percent in the high summer months, despite the tourists who continue flocking in to absorb U.S. history and the Smithsonian system of free museums. The average cost of a hotel room drops from \$230 in May to about \$150 in August. Hotel occupancy drops from nearly 86 percent in May to 75 percent in August.

"My restaurants tend to be a bit more refined, fine dining. The people off the street tend to just come in to look around," he said. □



Michael Judge, a tour guide, points out paintings inside the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol in Washington. The fire beneath Washington's cauldron of political invective is down to a simmer as Congress is on recess.
(Jonathan Ernst/The New York Times)

Former exec gets prison for \$185M stock swindle

FRANK ELTMAN

Associated Press

CENTRAL ISLIP, New York (AP) — The founder of America's leading supplier of body armor to the U.S. military was sentenced Thursday to 17 years in prison for running a \$185 million stock swindle in which he used the proceeds to finance luxuries such as lavish parties featuring Tom Petty, Aerosmith and the Eagles.

David H. Brooks, 58, founder and former chief executive of DHB Industries Inc., was convicted in 2010 of securities fraud and conspiracy. He and the company's former chief operating officer were accused of falsely inflating the value of the inventory of the company's top product, the Interceptor vest, to help meet profit margin projections.

U.S. District Judge Joanna

Seybert said Thursday that Brooks displayed a total lack of remorse — "not a glimmer, not a whisper, not a moment of regret."

"He attempted to portray himself as a great patriot," she said, attracting investors who thought they were doing something to protect troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Last week, she ordered Brooks to forfeit nearly \$60 million in proceeds from the insider trading scheme. He also must pay restitution; an amount will be determined within 90 days.

Sandra Hatfield, the former chief operating officer, was convicted of related charges but acquitted of mail and wire fraud at the same trial. She has yet to be sentenced.

There were no allegations that the company cheated the government or that

there was anything wrong with the vests or other DHB products. The Interceptor vest, designed to withstand rifle fire and shrapnel, was made for the Marine Corps and other branches of the military. The company saw its fortunes soar after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Its stock skyrocketed \$2 a share in early 2003 to nearly \$20 a share in late 2004, something prosecutors said was due to the scheme.

When the pair sold several million DHB shares at that time, Brooks made more than \$185 million and Hatfield more than \$5 million, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said Brooks bought a \$100,000 diamond-encrusted American flag belt buckle and threw lavish parties for his children that featured big-

name entertainers.

He resigned from DHB in July 2006, about the same time the company relocated its headquarters from Westbury, New York, to Pompano Beach, Florida, where it operates as Point Blank Solutions Inc. Hatfield left the company in November 2005.

Prosecutors had sought to put Brooks behind bars for at least 30 years.

"This is a fair and just sentence," said the judge, noting that the defendant won't get out of prison until he's in his 70s. She also took into account his documented history of mental illness. "In an era where Draconian sentences are handed out in white collar and other cases, I am reasonably pleased," defense attorney Gerald Shargel said. Brooks is appealing the conviction. □

Feds: No engine failure in fatal UPS plane crash

JAY REEVES

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama

(AP) — Federal investigators found no initial evidence that a UPS cargo jet suffered engine failure or was burning before it clipped trees at the end

were only preliminary, and investigators hope to get additional evidence from data and voice recorders that were pulled from the plane's burned-out tail section earlier in the day.

"They were blackened and sooted," he said of the re-

attempting to land on a 7,000-foot-long (2,100-meter-long) runway at Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport when it crashed before dawn Wednesday.

Sumwalt said the airport's other, 12,000-foot

the ground well short of the landing area.

Sumwalt said there was no indication of problems with the lights on the runway where the jet attempted to land, but investigators did find pieces of wood from trees inside an engine, plus dirt.

Investigators are still analyzing the debris, he said.

One of the investigators' tasks will be to probe why the plane was low enough to hit trees. The impact sheared off pieces of the aircraft and sent them crashing on to two homes. Residents who live near the airport said they have worried for years about the possibility of a plane crash. The plane was built in 2003 and had logged about

11,000 flight hours over 6,800 flights, Airbus said in a news release.

The A300, Airbus' first plane, began flying in 1972. Airbus quit building them in 2007 after making a total of 816 A300 and A310s. The model was retired from U.S. passenger service in 2009.

Wednesday's crash came nearly three years after another UPS cargo plane crashed in the United Arab Emirates, just outside Dubai. Both pilots were killed.

Authorities there blamed the Sept. 3, 2010, crash on the jet's load of 80,000 to 90,000 lithium batteries, which are sensitive to temperature. Investigators determined that a fire probably began in the cargo containing the batteries. □



Investigators search through the debris at the scene of a UPS cargo plane crash at the Birmingham International airport in Birmingham, Ala.

(AP Photo/Butch Dill)

of a runway and slammed into a hillside in Alabama, killing the two pilots, officials said Thursday.

Robert Sumwalt, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, said during an afternoon news conference the findings

corders, one of which captures voices in the cockpit and the other which records flight information about the plane's operation. "We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to obtain good data." The twin-engine A300 was

(3,657-meter) runway was shut down for repair work on its lights at the time.

Pilots are forced to navigate over a large hill to reach the shorter runway, and the plane clipped trees in a neighborhood before plummeting into

Judge questions AMR's bankruptcy plan

DAVID KOENIG

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ

AP Airlines Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Lawyers for American Airlines pressed a judge Thursday to approve the company's plan to merge with US Airways and exit bankruptcy protection, but the judge delayed a ruling because of the federal government's lawsuit against the merger.

This was supposed to be American's victory lap — the day that a judge would remove the last hurdle for a merger that would make American the world's biggest airline.

Instead, it was a sideshow. The U.S. Justice Depart-

ment ruined American's plans — at least temporarily — on Tuesday by filing a lawsuit against the merger, which it said would hurt competition and increase prices for consumers by leaving four airlines controlling more than 80 percent of the U.S. air-travel market. In court Thursday,

lawyers for American parent AMR Corp. and its unsecured creditors said the Justice Department's case shouldn't stop the bankruptcy judge from approving AMR's reorganization plan.

But Judge Sean Lane wasn't so sure. He said he had "lingering doubts" about approving the turn-

around plan and even considered postponing Thursday's hearing. Instead, he went ahead with the hearing but delayed a decision on AMR's plan until at least Aug. 29.

American and US Airways had hoped to close their merger by late September, but executives for both companies say that is unlikely now.

They vowed to fight the Justice Department in court, but that could take months. If the government wins, AMR could be forced to dust off a plan to emerge from bankruptcy as a stand-alone company — another long process. □

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Dow: Ramping up natural gas exports would be a gamble

**CLIFFORD KRAUSS
NELSON D. SCHWARTZ**
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MIDLAND, Mich. - As Dow Chemical's chief executive, Andrew Liveris has made himself into something of an outcast among his fellow business leaders. The reason? He is spearheading a public campaign against increased exports of natural gas, which he sees as a threat to a manufacturing renaissance in the United States, not to mention his own company's bottom line. But many others say such exports would provide far more benefits to the country than drawbacks, all part of a transformation that promises to increase the nation's weight in the global economy.

But that windfall is at risk if the government per-

mits natural gas exports to increase quickly, Liveris warns. To nurture the nation's good luck, he says,



Workers tear down a chlorine plant to make room for new ethylene and propylene plants at Dow Chemical's complex in Freeport, Texas. As gas producers pursue profits in exports, Andrew Liveris of Dow Chemical is trying to block what he sees as a squandering of a resource, and a hit to his company's bottom line.
(Michael Stravato/The New York Times)

the government needs to plan an energy policy that carefully balances the in-

terests of the oil and gas companies that want to freely export natural gas with those of industries like

tic gas supplies and bring higher energy prices.

Not surprisingly Liveris has become a lightning rod, particularly to those in the oil and gas drilling business. "He is coming across as a hypocrite and a self-serving person," said Charif Souki, chief executive of Cheniere Energy. "He wants free trade for everything he manufactures but no free trade for anybody else." Liveris concedes that the interests of his company coincide with his views. But he says that as the chief executive of Dow Chemical he also represents the interests of energy consumers at large.

"I'm protecting my shareholders," he said, pointing out as a cautionary example his native Australia, which he said exports 90 percent of its gas. That has

caused, he says, "the collapse of the manufacturing sector. And, by the way, the retail sector's paying through the nose. We're paying Japanese electricity prices in Australia, yet Australia is gas rich."

Liveris says that he also favors free markets, but that energy - like defense and food - requires special care to protect the national interest. Exporting natural gas is fine, he said, but not at the price of importing it back in the form of goods made with cheap gas elsewhere. "The paint ingredients need the paint can," he said. "The paint supply chain needs trucks. The trucks go to warehouses. Warehouses go to retail. I'm not importing finished goods. I'm making them in the United States of America." □

CBS blackout on Time Warner Cable may last until NFL season

BILL CARTER
© 2013 New York Times

More and more, it is looking like the blackout of CBS stations in more than 3 million homes subscribing to Time Warner Cable could last until the start of the National Football League season on Sept. 8, analysts who are monitoring the situation said this week.

That would mean three more weeks without CBS

programming for the cable subscribers. The contract dispute is approaching the two-week mark with no hint of an imminent settlement. "I really think these guys are going to need the NFL to add a sense of urgency to this," said David Bank, a media analyst with RBC Capital Markets.

Neither side in the standoff has mentioned any progress over the last several

days. Both have continued to level charges and accusations of blame for Time Warner Cable's decision to remove CBS' stations in areas the cable company covers, which include subscribers in New York, Los Angeles and Dallas.

The issue centers on fees that cable companies are obligated to pay to broadcast stations for the right to retransmit them on their

cable systems. CBS has asked for a substantial increase, widely estimated at a \$1 per subscriber raise. Time Warner Cable has declared the demands exorbitant. But the focus of the dispute is now additional rights to packages of programming that CBS sells to on-demand subscription video services like Netflix and Amazon. Time Warner Cable wants to gain access to that content; CBS insists it would mean Time Warner Cable was getting for free something it sells for hundreds of millions of dollars to on-demand services. The only action on the conflict taking place in recent days has involved parties outside the negotiations. Three residents in Southern California filed a class-action suit against Time Warner Cable

on Wednesday saying the plaintiffs would not have signed up with the operator had they known programming would be denied to them. Several politicians, including both of California's U.S. senators, have urged the Federal Communications Commission to step in, but the agency's avenues of input are limited.

If either side makes a complaint of bad-faith negotiating, the FCC could potentially intercede, but neither side has made such a complaint. While representatives of both sides have said the negotiations continue, no one is predicting the end is in sight. The NFL season has been cited frequently as a critical factor because of expected vociferous protests from customers missing games. □

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US Financial Front:

Tepid retail sales raising doubts about recovery

A. D'INNOCENZIO
C. S. RUGABER

AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Bleaker outlooks at retailers like Wal-Mart and Macy's are raising doubts that consumers will spend enough in coming months to lift the still-subpar U.S. economy.

Though the economy is growing steadily, Americans are being hampered by weak pay, higher taxes and tepid hiring. Sluggish overseas economies are also slowing sales for U.S. retailers. It's a picture the Federal Reserve will weigh in deciding whether to scale back its bond purchases as soon as next month.

"Consumers aren't going to start spending with abandon until we see much stronger job and wage growth," says Mark Vitner, an economist at Wells Fargo.

Average weekly paychecks have grown just 1.3 percent since the recession ended more than four years ago. Over the past 12 months, pay has trailed even low inflation. That's partly why spending has remained lackluster and why many Americans may be postponing purchases at department stores so they can buy cars, homes and other costly necessities.

Americans increased their spending at an annual rate of just 1.8 percent in the April-June quarter — down from a 2.3 percent rate in the January-March period. Consumer spending is expected to improve in the second half of the year. But most economists foresee only a slight acceleration to an annual rate of 2 percent to 2.5 percent. Those spending rates are

historically weak. And they're too meager to significantly boost the economy, which grew at an annual rate of just 1.4 percent in the first half of the year. Consumer spending fuels about 70 percent of the U.S. economy.

For much of this year, many Americans have made major purchases that they had postponed during the recession and the weak recovery. Auto and home sales have strengthened. Yet that's left less spending money for discretionary purchases such as electronic goods, clothes and eating out.

"Consumers are very much need-based," said Ken Perkins, president of Retail-Metrics, a retail research firm. "If they're buying a new car, that leaves less money for a child's wardrobe."

That trend has weakened the sales and profits of retailers like Macy's. On Wednesday, Macy's reported a disappointing profit for its second quarter and cut its outlook for the year.

And Wal-Mart, the world's biggest retailer, issued an earnings report Thursday that intensified worries about the strength of U.S. consumers, long a driving force for the global economy.

The Arkansas-based discounter said it expects economic strains in the United States and abroad to squeeze its low-income shoppers the rest of the year. Wal-Mart is considered an economic bellwether: It accounts for nearly 10 percent of non-automotive retail spending in the United States.

The company attributed its gloomier report in part to a

Social Security tax increase that's reduced most Americans' paychecks this year. Charles Holley, the chief fi-

consumer will be a key factor the Fed will consider in deciding whether to scale back its \$85 billion a month

term loans near record lows.

Chairman Ben Bernanke and other Fed officials



Shoppers peruse the aisles at a Wal-Mart in Bristol, Pa. Americans increased their spending at an annual rate of just 1.8% in the April-June quarter, down from a 2.3 percent rate in the January-March period. Consumer spending is expected to improve in the second half of the year. But most economists foresee only a slight acceleration to an annual rate of 2% to 2.5%.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

financial officer, said its customers appear to be reluctant to buy discretionary items, like flat-screen TVs. The state of the American

in Treasury and mortgage bond purchases. Those purchases have been intended to keep rates on mortgages and other long-

have said the central bank may start slowing its bond purchases later this year if the economy continues to strengthen. □





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Car bomb rips through south Beirut suburb, kills dozens

BASSEM MROUE
ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press
BEIRUT (AP) — A powerful

day, killing at least 18 and trapping dozens of others in an inferno of burning cars and buildings in the bloodi-

just over a month to hit one of the Shiite militant group's bastions of support, and the deadliest in decades.

is being fought on increasingly sectarian lines pitting Sunnis against Shiites.

Syria-based Sunni rebels and militant Islamist groups fighting to topple Syria's President Bashar Assad have threatened to target Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon in retaliation for intervening on behalf of his regime in the conflict.

Thursday's explosion ripped through a crowded, overwhelmingly Shiite area tightly controlled by Hezbollah, turning streets lined with vegetable markets, bakeries and shops into scenes of destruction.

Dozens of ambulances rushed to the site of the explosion and firefighters used cranes and ladders to try to evacuate terrified residents from burning buildings. Some fled to the rooftops of buildings and civil defense workers were still struggling to bring them down to safety several hours after the explosion.

The blast appeared to be an attempt to sow fear among the group's civilian supporters and did not target any known Hezbollah

facility or figure. Hezbollah's Al Manar TV and Red Cross official George Kattaneh said the death toll was at least 18 and more than 280 were wounded. The army, in a statement, said the explosion was caused by a car bomb. It called on residents to cooperate with security forces trying to evacuate people trapped in their homes.

Syria's conflict has spilled across the border into its neighbor on multiple occasions in the past two years. Fire from Syria has hit border villages, while clashes between Lebanese factions backing different sides have left scores dead.

But direct attacks against civilian targets were rare until Hezbollah stepped up its role in Syria. Since then, its support bases in southern Beirut have been targeted. Since May, rockets have been fired at suburbs controlled by the group on two occasions, wounding four people. On July 9, a car bomb exploded in the nearby Beir al-Abed district, wounding more than 50 people. □



Lebanese citizens and Hezbollah supporters gather at the site of a car bomb explosion in southern Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013. The powerful car bomb ripped through a crowded southern Beirut neighborhood that is a stronghold of the militant group Hezbollah on Thursday, killing at least a dozen people and trapping dozens of others in burning cars and buildings in the latest apparent violence linked to the civil war in neighboring Syria, officials said.

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

car bomb tore through a bustling south Beirut neighborhood that is a stronghold of Hezbollah on Thurs-

day, killing at least 18 and trapping dozens of others in an inferno of burning cars and buildings in the bloodi-

est attack yet on Lebanese civilians linked to Syria's civil war. The blast is the second in

It raises the specter of a sharply divided Lebanon being pulled further into the conflict next door, which

Iran parliament rejects 3 Cabinet nominees

NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's conservative-dominated parliament rejected three of the new president's 18 nominees for his Cabinet on Thursday but approved 15 others, including those heading ministries key to implementing his agenda to reduce the Islamic Republic's international isolation and improve its economy.

Separately, President Hasan Rouhani appointed his predecessor's foreign minister as new head of the country's nuclear agency, the state news agency reported.

Hard-liners in parliament had attacked Rouhani's Cabinet nominees for having Western educations and for being close to the opposition. But after four days of debate, they only rejected three — Mohammad Ali Najafi as educa-

tion minister, Jafar Milimonfared as science, research and technology minister and Masoud Soltanifar as sports and youth minister. Lawmakers accused both Najafi and Milimonfared of playing a role in the unrest that followed disputed 2009 elections. Soltanifar was accused of being inexperienced.

However parliament approved Rouhani's nominee Mohammad Javad Zarif for the post of foreign minister. According to his resume, he did postgraduate studies at San Francisco State University and obtained a doctorate in international law and policy at the University of Denver.

Lawmakers also approved the proposed oil minister, Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, 61, who previously held that portfolio from 1997 to 2005.

Hard-liners used the debates to launch their first

major salvo against Rouhani's agenda since his election in a landslide victory in June, won with the backing of centrists and reformists.

Rouhani took the oath of office on Aug. 4 and sent his proposed Cabinet list to the parliament the same day. Earlier on Thursday, the president in a speech asked lawmakers to vote for all his nominees as a "united and integrated system."

The new president has pledged to improve an economy ravaged by international sanctions through empowering technocrats and mending bridges with the rest of the world.

Iran faces Western sanctions over its nuclear program, which the U.S. and its allies say has military dimensions. Iran denies the charge, saying its nuclear activities are for peaceful purposes. □



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Syria activists: Al-Qaida kills 2 Shiite teens

BEIRUT (AP) — Al-Qaida militants in northern Syria shot dead two Shiite teenagers whom they accused of being pro-government gunmen, filming video of the killing that was later posted to the Internet, an activist group said Thursday.

It's the latest apparent shooting of captives in a war that has increasingly taken on sectarian tones. Many Syrian Shiites are allied with the regime of President Bashar Assad, whose Alawite sect is an offshoot of Shiism, and who is challenged by mostly Sunni rebels. Both Sunni extremists among the rebels and Alawite gunmen have been blamed for the deaths of scores of people from different sects.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the two youths who were shot dead came from the besieged Shiite-majority towns of Nubul and Zahra in Aleppo province. Rebels currently surround the towns and have been fighting against troops and pro-government gunmen in the area for months.

An amateur video posted online showed two blindfolded males sitting in front of a masked gunman. The Observatory said they were both under the age of 18. The masked gunman reads a statement by the al-Qaida-linked Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant saying the two "Nubul and Zahra shabiha," or pro-government gunmen, are to be killed after two attempts to exchange them with rebel prisoners held in the towns failed. He says pro-government forces in the villages did not abide by deals that could have led to the two men's release. □

UN chief 'troubled' by Israeli settlements

M. DARAGHMEH

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— U.N. Secretary-General Ban-Ki moon said Thursday that he is "deeply troubled" by Israeli settlement building and that it could ultimately prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state.

A day earlier, Israelis and Palestinians had launched formal talks on the terms of a Palestinian state, ending a five-year freeze.

The talks were overshadowed by recent Israeli announcements on promoting plans for more than 3,000 new settlement apartments.

The Palestinians want a state in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, captured by Israel in 1967. Israel has built dozens of settlements there that are now home to more than half a million Israelis and are deemed illegal by most of the international community.

"I am deeply troubled by Israel's continuing settlement activity in the West Bank, including east Jerusalem," Ban said, speaking at a news conference with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. "The settlement activity is deepening the Palestinian people's mistrust in the seriousness on the Israeli side toward achieving peace. It will ultimately render a two-state solution impossible."

The five-year break in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations was largely due to a dispute over settlements. Abbas insisted on a settlement freeze as a condition for talks. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected the demand, arguing that all issues should be raised in negotiations with the Palestinians.

Under U.S. pressure, Ab-

bas eventually agreed to return to talks without a settlement freeze, though Abbas aides have said the Obama administration assured them it would try to

new settlement plans prompted particular anger among Palestinian negotiators. Israeli officials argued that much of the new construction is planned in areas

tempt since 2000 to set up a Palestinian state alongside Israel. Negotiators are to draw borders, including one running through Jerusalem, agree on security



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, right, walks with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon upon his arrival in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013.

(AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed)

restrain Israeli construction. Amid expectations of a slowdown, Israel's recent announcements about

Israel expects to keep in any peace deal. The current round of negotiations is the third at-

arrangements and decide on the fate of millions of Palestinian refugees and their descendants. □



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Japan shrine still flashpoint 68 years after war

ELAINE KURTENBACH

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — In the steamy heat of mid-August, the tranquil, cherry tree-shaded grounds of Yasukuni Shrine in the heart of Tokyo seem an unlikely hotbed of provocation. But visits by senior Japa-

ambassador in Beijing to register a protest. A shrine of Japan's indigenous Shinto religion, Yasukuni evokes bitter memories across Asia of Japan's colonial and wartime aggression. It honors 2.5 million Japanese war dead, including Class A war crimi-

yellow chrysanthemums in paying respects for the war dead.

"I pray for world peace and our country's further prosperity," Akihito said. Abe has said he regrets not visiting Yasukuni on the anniversary during his first, one-year term in 2006-07.

file of its military are compounding the unease at a time of rising tensions over a cluster of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea claimed by both Japan and China.

Hackles rose also at the unveiling earlier this month of Japan's biggest warship

UK stuntman dies in wingsuit mishap in Alps

GENEVA (AP) — He wasn't a competitor, but Mark Sutton still got one of the biggest cheers of the 2012 Olympics.

Sutton, who was killed during a wingsuit jump in the Alps this week, was the skydiver who parachuted into London's Olympic Stadium during the opening ceremony dressed as James Bond, alongside another stuntman disguised as Queen Elizabeth II.

It was the punchline to a filmed sequence in which Daniel Craig's Bond escorted the real queen from Buckingham Palace onto a helicopter — and, for many, the highlight of director Danny Boyle's ceremony.

Swiss police confirmed that Sutton died Wednesday when he crashed into a rocky ridge near Trient in the southwestern Valais region. They gave his age as 42. Wingsuits — aerodynamic jumpsuits that make wearers look like winged superheroes — allow fliers to jump from planes, helicopters and occasionally cliffs and soar long distances before opening parachutes to land.

Boyle on Thursday paid tribute to Sutton, saying he and fellow diver Gary Conner had "made the stadium gasp ... and left indelible memories for people from all walks of life all over the world."

"The show was built from so many contributions from so many people, none finer and braver than Mark Sutton," Boyle said. "On behalf of everyone in the show we were all honored to have worked with him and to have known him as a friend and a professional."

London 2012 chief Sebastian Coe said Sutton was "a consummate professional and team player" who would be widely missed.

Online extreme sports broadcaster Epic TV said Sutton was killed during a gathering it had organized involving 20 wingsuit pilots who were filmed as they jumped from helicopters. □



Worshippers release doves, wishing for the world's peace, at the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013. Japan marked the 68th anniversary of its surrender in World War II with somber ceremonies Thursday and visits by senior politicians to the shrine honoring 2.5 million war dead that remains a galling reminder of colonial and wartime aggression.

(AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

nese government officials to the shrine, whose grounds also house a war museum glorifying Japan's wartime past, routinely anger neighboring China and South Korea, highlighting lingering resentments 68 years after the end of World War II.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, whose hawkish views have raised concerns in the region, did not visit the shrine on Thursday's anniversary of the war's end, but had an aide present an ornamental offering bought with his own money. He also laid flowers at a national cemetery dedicated to more than 352,000 unidentified war victims.

Two of his Cabinet members, decked out in morning suits, did pay their respects at the shrine Thursday, prompting China to summon the Japanese

nals such as Hideki Tojo, a prime minister during the war, who was executed in 1948.

Japan has repeatedly apologized for its wartime actions, but the shrine remains a flashpoint nearly 70 years after Emperor Hirohito issued his proclamation surrendering to Allied forces on Aug. 15, 1945.

North and South Korea marked the surrender anniversary Thursday with ceremonies of their own celebrating their independence from Japan's 1910-45 colonization of the peninsula. South Korean President Park Geun-hye urged Japanese leaders to "show brave leadership in healing wounds of the past."

Abe joined Emperor Akihito at a ceremony at a Tokyo indoor arena where they bowed deeply before a backdrop of white and

When asked if he would go this year, he told reporters, "Since it would become a political and diplomatic problem, I cannot tell you that."

Past public opinion polls have shown majorities of those asked support visits to the shrine by Japanese leaders, though the shrine is not as popular as other major Shinto sites.

"There are different opinions, but I am here today to honor the war dead because I believe we are here now thanks to those who fought for our country,"

said Akira Fujisada, a Tokyo resident, who traveled from a distant Tokyo suburb to pay his respects with his wife and 1-year-old daughter.

Abe's support for revising Japan's pacifist Constitution and raising the pro-

since the end of the war.

The Izumo, a flat-top destroyer, shares the same name as a warship in the Imperial Navy destroyed in an American attack in 1945.

"We call upon the Japanese side to honor their commitment to admit and reflect upon their history of invasion, act with care on relevant questions, and through concrete actions, win the trust of the people of Asian victim nations and international society," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in a statement posted on the ministry's website.

He said Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin had urgently summoned Japanese Ambassador Masato Kittera, lodged "solemn representations" and expressed "strong protest and severe condemnation." □



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Venezuela lawmaker hurls gay slurs at the opposition

JORGE RUEDA
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venomous political attacks have become the norm in Venezuela, and now a governing party legislator has unleashed a tirade in the country's legislature using gay slurs in trying to discredit the opposition.

The lawmaker displayed photos in the National Assembly this week showing a top aide to opposition leader Henrique Capriles dressed, along with other men, in women's clothing, apparently at a party. He suggested, without elaboration, that the photos proved the aide's involvement with drug traffickers and male and female prostitution.

Legislator Pedro Carreno, a member of the movement built by the late President Hugo Chavez, didn't say where he got the photos, although the aide's apartment was searched last week by military agents.

The aide, Oscar Lopez, is in hiding. The government said it was investigating him on unspecified corruption charges, which the opposition calls part of a new wave of political repression.

Carreno, a former military officer, is angry with Capriles for accusing him of being forced out of the

armed forces for corruption and has challenged him to provide proof or resign as Miranda governor.

"Respond, you homosexual," Carreno said during Tuesday's legislative session. "Accept the challenge, you faggot."

Carreno then claimed there is a police report saying Capriles was caught having oral sex in public in 2000. President Nicolas Maduro hurled more invective Wednesday, alluding during a public event to lascivious material that he insinuated was seized from Lopez. "Just 1 percent what was discovered was shown" in the National Assembly, Maduro said. "The videos and photos of orgies are not publishable." Maduro also accused Capriles of using his office as governor of the central state of Miranda to "prostitute youths." Lopez is Capriles' chief of staff there.

A leader of the opposition's pro-tolerance movement, Tamara Adrian of Pro Inclusion, called the behavior despicable.

"Venezuela is the only country in Latin America where the National Assembly has never discussed such issues as same-sex marriage. And if anyone asks why, the answer was clear yesterday," she said Wednesday in talking

about Carreno's outburst. Capriles said Wednesday he was "honored" to be attacked by a government that he says is going to be brought down by its own corruption and what he says was the theft of the April 14 presidential election. "If I was a homosexual I would acknowledge it with pride to the four winds," Capriles said.

Analyst Luis Vicente Leon, director of the DataTallies polling firm, called the increasingly personalized attacks by government officials a sign of Maduro's weakening position in the face of worsening inflation, rampant violent crime and foreign currency, food and medicine shortages. □



Venezuela's opposition leader Henrique Capriles at a rally in Caracas, Venezuela. Opposition groups this week condemned the corruption accusations against Capriles' political party Primero Justicia or Justice First made by a pro-government congressman, who even questioned the sexual orientation of Capriles in a speech full of insults and profanity at a session of the unicameral Congress. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

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Report:

Puerto Rican parrot makes major comeback

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

RIO ABAJO NATURE PRESERVE, Puerto Rico (AP) —

One of the world's most endangered bird species has made a major comeback in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico. The counted population of the Puerto Rican parrot fell to just 13 during its darkest days, but researchers said Thursday that nearly 400 parrots are now in captivity and more than 100 being tracked in the wild across the island. Scientists working in the Rio Abajo Nature Preserve in western Puerto Rico also found a wild nest with eggs, the first discovery of its kind in 42 years.

"This is a huge step," said Gustavo Olivieri, coordinator of the Rio Abajo parrot reintroduction program. "It shows the population can sustain itself." The eggs did not hatch, but scientists said that is not unusual and they are encouraged that formerly captive parrots were procreating in the wild and building nests.

The birds are the island's only remaining native parrot and one of roughly 30 species of Amazon parrots found in the Americas. They have red foreheads,

turquoise feathers under their wings and grow to nearly a foot in length. They are known for their secrecy and usually mate for life, reproducing once a year. This year, a record 51 baby

number of parrots born in the wild also increased slightly to a record 15, up from 12 last year, he said. While the researchers' goal is to release parrots into the wild with temporary radio

by the clearing of forests in the late 1800s to plant citrus, coffee and sugar cane. By the 1950s, there were only an estimated 200 parrots in the wild, and numbers reached a low of



A Puerto Rican parrot is pictured inside a fly cage at El Yunque National Forest protected habitat in Luquillo, Puerto Rico.

(AP Photo/Ricardo Arduengo)

parrots were born in captivity in the Rio Abajo forest, up from a previous record of 34 born in 2011, said Ricardo Valentin, a biologist with the island's Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The

collars, some are too aggressive or weak and are instead kept captive, Olivieri said. Scientists estimate that as many as 1 million Puerto Rican parrots lived in pre-colonial times, but their habitat was destroyed

13 in 1975. "Very few species in the world have been so close to extinction like the Puerto Rican parrot," said Leopoldo Miranda, assistant regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. □

Cayman, US agree on reporting of Americans' assets

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) —

The Cayman Islands says it has reached agreement with the United States to provide information on accounts held by American citizens to comply with a sweeping U.S. law designed to combat tax evasion.

The British Caribbean territory, considered the world's sixth largest financial center and a major haven for mutual funds and private equity, said the texts of the new pacts will be made public once an official signing ceremony is held.

The Cayman government said the pacts are tied to a U.S. law called the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, which was enacted in 2010 and expected to

take effect next year. The law targets non-tax compliance by U.S. citizens with foreign accounts around the globe, and Washington is pressing nations to provide client data.

Financial Services Minister Wayne Panton said in a Tuesday statement that the agreements illustrate the tiny three-island territory's "commitment to engage in globally accepted tax and transparency initiatives." The islands plan further talks with Britain's government to finalize terms of a similar information-sharing arrangement for British citizens. There is nothing illegal about U.S. citizens opening bank accounts and trusts in places like the Cayman Islands or Switzerland, but some people illegally use

them to hide money and avoid taxes at home.

Such overseas accounts have come under a crush of scrutiny in recent years, and offshore financial centers like the Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands have scrambled to sign new international tax treaties and defend their financial sectors.

Zero direct taxation and friendly regulations have helped the Cayman Islands lure global money in recent decades and dramatically transform its economy from one based on seafaring, fishing and rope making to one built on financial services and tourism.

The Cayman government said the agreements with the U.S. will streamline the reporting of informa-

tion "regarding accounts and nonfinancial entities substantially owned by United States citizens and residents." It will relay that information directly to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act requires U.S. taxpayers with more than \$50,000 in a foreign financial asset to annually report the details. The threshold is higher for some people such as married taxpayers filing jointly or U.S. citizens living in a foreign country, according to the IRS.

Critics of the U.S. law argue it will be an administrative headache for financial institutions and will make it more difficult for U.S. citizens to have foreign accounts. □

Brazil convicts three for rape of US woman

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

A Rio de Janeiro court convicted three men Thursday in the gang rape of an American woman aboard a public transit van that shocked Brazil and made headlines around the world. Judge Guilherme Schilling delivered the verdict Wednesday, sentencing 20-year-old Jonathan Froudakis de Souza and 21-year-old Wallace Aparecido de Souza Silva each to 49 years and three months in prison on rape, robbery and extortion charges. Carlos Armando Costa dos Santos, whose age was not given, was sentenced to 21 years and seven months in prison, while a minor detained in connection with the rape has yet to be tried.

A court statement on the decision said the attacks on the woman "in many instances were laced with sadism and complete disdain for the victim."

The assault began after midnight on March 30 when the victim and her French boyfriend caught a public van in Rio's showcase Copacabana beach neighborhood en route to the popular nightlife district of Lapa. Brazilian news reports have said the couple was in the country to study Portuguese. Van operators robbed the passengers and forced all but the couple to get off. While they restrained the Frenchman and beat him with a tire iron, they repeatedly raped the woman as they van traveled back and forth between Rio and a nearby suburb. The attackers also went on a shopping spree with the couple's credit cards, forcing the woman to return to the apartment where she was staying to fetch another card, the police officer overseeing the investigation has said. The ordeal went on for around six hours before the pair was dumped in a "favela" slum in the poor Rio suburb of Sao Goncalo. Rio's tourist police quickly arrested the suspects. □



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hosted by Chuckie with all festival artists slated to attend; Access for two to the RLife LIVE artist lounge at Nikky Beach during the festival; \$100 cocktail credit per person; One bottle of champagne upon arrival; Daily breakfast for two. The package is based on double occupancy and

is available for stays September 3 - 11, 2013 with a 4-night minimum starting at \$629 per night. The package can be booked online at renaissancearuba.com using offer code XM5.

The Electric Festival, which will also feature headliners Hardwell, Slash, Nero, Nicole Moudaber, Boris and Mastiksoul, is set to be the largest of its kind in the Caribbean. The festival is being organized in conjunction with the Aruba Tourism Authority, Amsterdam Dance Event, Evenpro and GM Affairs Caribbean.

Renaissance Aruba is also offering the Beats on the Beach VIP package during the Electric Festival, which includes deluxe accommodations for two, two three-day festival passes, daily breakfast for two, a cocktail credit of \$100 and two \$10 iTunes cards to download their favorite sounds from the weekend. Package rates start at

\$232.72 per night. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/fm7fB7>.

Both packages and official DJ Chuckie suite are part of Renaissance Hotels' RLife Live program, which brings the best new music, entertainment, food and drink to Renaissance Ho-

tels throughout the world. In Aruba, this has included everything from live radio remotes during the Soul Beach Music Festival to on-property fashion shows during Aruba in Style and more. For more details on RLife Live events worldwide, visit renhotels.com/r-life. □



Loyal visitors honored by ATA



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Kathleen Luther and her son Kameron Luther of Cumberland, Rhode Island, and Walter Yourawski, who received the certificates for his family, wife Cerie and children Julian, Robert and Caroline, all of whom are from Peabody, Mass. The honorees love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants, and they love to meet with their friends that they see every year that they visit. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Rina Geerman. □

Beauty On The Beach

Alyssa Jones

She is from Toronto, Canada. It's her second time in Aruba, staying with her family at Renaissance Ocean tower. She loves Aruba's beaches, shopping and food.

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A big welcome back to Michael and Susana from Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill!

PALM BEACH - A big, warm welcome back to Michael and Susana Hoffman from Saratoga Springs, New York. They have been coming to Aruba, believe it or not, for 24 years! Not strange that they decided to buy one of the gorgeous homes at Tierra Del Sol. The reason they keep returning for almost a quarter decade is the friendly Arubans, the beautiful weather and ofcourse Bugaloe. Michael and Susana have become real good friends with the Bugaloe crew and always have a warm welcome when arriving back at Bugaloe. Their love for Bugaloe is big because of the staff, the food and always very cold beers. The menu item of choice is the Garlic Shrimp and everything with grilled Grouper. Their favorite drinks are



by far a good ol' Heiniken of local Balashi beer. Every Year Bugaloe organizes a Golf tournament and donates the money to a good cause. Last tournament Bugaloe donated the money to 'Jakes Help from Heaven' that was founded by Michael and Susana in memory of their beloved grandson. The Bugaloe crew likes to thank Michael and Susana for being such loyal guests and friends, and love to welcome them year after year. □

An adventure for a cause with the Jolly Pirates!

PALM BEACH - Together with our national Telecom firm Setar a fundraising event has been organized benefiting the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. Because of lack of space a new and larger sanctuary needs to be built to accommodate the ever-growing number of donkeys, now almost 140.

At this time the donkeys find their homes at various locations, even in a private garden. A lot of money is needed to bring all the donkeys together in one location at Bringamosa. The Dutch foundation Dierenlot's substantial donation has been enough for the start of building the first necessities such as the containers for fodder, water containers, storage and fences. But a lot more money is needed for stables, a shop and a visitor center. The Aruban government and the trade and industry are aware of the importance of a donkey sanc-

tuary. Letting the donkeys roam wild is not an option because they create dangerous situations for our traffic and for themselves. The Aruban Donkey Sanctuary has become a great tourist attraction; visitors come to the sanctuary in droves, on their own or via tour operators such as the Palm Tours.

The fundraising event is very simple: if you are a Setar client you can sms the word BURICO (Papiamentu for donkey) to number 250. The price of such an sms is AWG. 3,- and the total amount will go to the donkeys. With this sms you are in the running to win spectacular prizes and every week there are new prizes to be won.

The event will run until October 4, Animal Day. And of course, the more sms-es you send, the more chances to win one of the weekly prizes.

This week the grand prize is



an adventurous sailing trip on the Jolly Pirates boat, where one glides across the water on the way to three gripping snorkeling sites. On one of these sites one can go the underwater world surrounding a sunken merchant ship that went down during World War II. During the trip the drinks and BBQ are free of charge for the winners. And of course

one can go rope-swinging to one's heart's content, hereby perfectly combining fun and adventure.

The Jolly Pirate boat is donating the trip because they feel close to all the animals and marine life on and around the island. They know that sheltering the donkeys is a good thing for Aruba.

Feel joined to the Pirates of

the Caribbean when one sets sail on its adventurous course.

So please start sms-ing the word BURICO to number 250 and you may win, while supporting the Aruban Donkey Foundation. The more times you sms, the more chances you have to win and support one of the very nice attractions on the island. □

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Federer rallies, rough summer improves in Cincy

JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Roger Federer's rough summer finally got a warm moment at one of his favorite tournaments, providing a little encouragement with the U.S. Open just ahead.

Federer overcome a tough start and emerged from his string of subpar showings since Wimbledon, beating Tommy Haas 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 on Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals at the Western & Southern Open. The fifth-seeded Swiss star has been struggling to get his game back in shape since he was upset at Wimbledon by a player ranked 116th in the world. He has switched rackets and been limited by a sore back.

Finally, his game started to come together at a tournament he's won an unprecedented five times, including last year.

"Overall, I'm looking at the big picture and just playing matches again," Federer said.

"I want to make sure I'm moving well and feeling fine. A match like this gives me a lot."



Roger Federer, from Switzerland, strides to hit a return to Tommy Haas, from Germany, at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Thursday August 15, 2013, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

While Federer took a step, No. 1 Novak Djokovic got one win closer to a little ATP history.

He needed only 50 minutes to beat qualifier David Goffin, 6-2, 6-0 and reach the quarterfinals.

Djokovic has lost four finals in Cincinnati, the only Masters series event he has yet to win.

A victory would make him the first player to win all nine Masters.

"I played four times finals, so it's been one of the tournaments where I've performed well," Djokovic said. "Never managed to make the final step, and hopefully this year I can do so."

"I have an extra motivation and an opportunity to make history in this tournament, so I'm very inspired to play well day after day." Also reaching the quarterfinals were second-seeded Andy Murray, unseeded John Isner, seventh-seeded Juan Martin del Potro and Russian qualifier Dmitry Tursunov, who upset third-seeded David Ferrer.

Continued on Page 22



In this Oct. 4, 2012 file photo, boxer Orlando Cruz poses for a portrait after training at a public gym in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rican boxer Orlando Cruz has pro-

posed marriage to his partner after announcing last year that he is gay.

Puerto Rico gay boxer Orlando Cruz to marry

Cruz made his proposal on his Facebook page, and his boyfriend accepted. "I'd like to say, and share it with your friends, and with my friends: Do you want to marry me?" Cruz said on a video of about 2 minutes posted on the social media site on Wednesday. "It's an important step, it's a step I've thought about, it's a step that we have thought about." Cruz also mentioned the

proposal on his Twitter account, saying that he had taken an important step in his life and that he wants happiness for him and his partner as a couple. Puerto Rican gay activist Pedro Julio Serrano, spokesman for the U.S.-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said he will serve as the godfather at the couple's wedding. The timing and location

of the wedding was unknown. Same-sex marriage is not allowed in Puerto Rico, or in Florida, where Cruz has a home. Cruz announced his sexual orientation in October, becoming what is believed to be the first pro boxer to come out as openly homosexual while still competing. The boxer is a featherweight fighter and is 20-2-1 with 10 knockouts. □

Abeba Aregawi wins 1,500 at athletics worlds

RAF CASERT
AP Sports Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Sweden capped an eventful world championship day with its first gold medal after one of its high jumpers set off a controversy over Russia's anti-gay law in the morning with a rainbow-colored protest that drew pole vault great Yelena Isinbayeva into condemning homosexuality.

Abeba Aregawi won the closing 1,500 meters Thursday, beating defending champion Jenny Simpson of the United States with a great last-lap effort.

Earlier in the day, Aregawi's teammate Emma Green Tregaro flaunted her rainbow-painted fingernails in the morning as she qualified for the weekend high jump final, a show of support of gays and lesbians in Russia.

It set off Isinbayeva, the Russian pole-vaulting star, who criticized homosexuality and defended the new anti-gay law which has drawn sharp criticism and

led Western activists to call for a boycott of next year's Winter Olympics in the Russian resort of Sochi.

The law means that anyone wearing a rainbow flag on the street or writing about gay relationships on Facebook, for instance, could be accused of propagandizing.

"We are just against the publicity in our country and I support our government," Isinbayeva said.

Green Tregaro posted a picture of her fingers on social media website Instagram, saying "Nails painted in the colors of the rainbow." She followed that with several hashtags, including "pride" and "moscow2013."

"If we allow to promote and do all this stuff on the street, we are very afraid about our nation because we consider ourselves like normal, standard people," Isinbayeva said.

Another high jumper, Bohdan Bondarenko of Ukraine, seized the spotlight when he just missed out on

a world record of 2.46 meters and had to settle for a championship record of 2.41 for gold, edging Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar by three centimeters.

On a night of alms for Americans, Simpson was not the only one to settle for silver.

Jehue Gordon of Trinidad and Tobago threw himself across the finish line to hold off Michael Tinsley by .01 seconds and win the 400-meter hurdles.

Gordon came on strong down the stretch and finished in a world-leading time of 47.69 seconds to edge Tinsley. Emir Bekric of Serbia was third and two-time Olympic champion Felix Sanchez wound up fifth.

It was a similar story in the women's 400 hurdles, even if the margins were bigger. Zuzana Hejnova of the Czech Republic beat American duo Dalilah Muhammad and defending champion Lashinda Demus.

The U.S. silver medal tally



Sweden's Abeba Aregawi, right, goes to cross the finish line ahead of United States' Jennifer Simpson, left, in the women's 1500-meter final at the World Athletics Championships in the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013.

Associated Press

ballooned to eight, with a championship leading 14 overall. The United States also leads the gold medal standings with four.

Kenya moved up into second place together with Russia when steeplechaser Ezekiel Kemboi further established himself as the

greatest of his era, winning gold ahead of compatriot Conseslus Kipruto for his third world title in a row. It was the fourth straight 1-2 finish for Kenya at the world championships.

Both nations now have eight medals overall, including three gold. □

Wimbledon champ Bartoli retires after latest loss

JOE KAY
AP Sports Writer

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Just weeks after winning the Wimbledon title, Marion Bartoli retired from tennis on Wednesday, tearfully conceding that the pain from a series of injuries was too much to bear.

"My body was really starting to fall apart and I was able to keep it together, go through the pain — with a lot of pain — throughout this Wimbledon and make it happen," the 28-year-old French player said, tears running down her cheeks. "That was probably the last little bit of something that was left inside me."

"I've been playing for a long, long, long time, and it's time for me now. It is." Bartoli, who was runner-up at Wimbledon in 2007, clinched her career-defining victory when she beat

Sabine Lisicki in the final at the All England Club in July. She climbed into the stands to hug her father, Walter, a doctor who zig-zagged across France taking her to tournaments as a schoolgirl.

After another painful time on court during a 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 loss to Simona Halep at the Western & Southern Open on Wednesday, she called her father and came to her decision.

"I have pain everywhere after 45 minutes or an hour of play," she said. "I've been doing this for so long. Body-wise, I can't do it anymore."

Bartoli has been hampered by an injured left foot, right ankle, right hamstring and Achilles tendon injury. She said every part of her body hurt while she was on the court Wednesday, and it's been like that for some



In this July 6, 2013, file photo, Marion Bartoli, of France, smiles as she holds the trophy after winning the women's singles final against Sabine Lisicki, of Germany, at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London.

Associated Press

time. She reached a career-high ranking of No. 7 at the start of the 2012 season, but a Grand Slam title eluded her. Bartoli finally won at Wimbledon in her 47th

Grand Slam tournament, the most by any woman before winning one. After that title, her ranking moved back to No. 7.

Once the joy of that moment left, the pain returned

and she found herself considering the end of her career.

Her rough night on the court Wednesday convinced her that she had nothing left, with her Achilles, hip, shoulder and back aching.

She decided to retire without fanfare or second guesses.

"You know, everyone will remember my Wimbledon title," she said. "No one will remember the last match I played here."

"It's been a tough decision to take. I don't take this easily."

I've been a tennis player for a long time and I had a chance to make my biggest dream a reality. I felt I really, really pushed through the ultimate limits to make it happen.

"But now I just can't do it anymore." □

AL Capsules

Soriano knocks in 7, Yankees rout Angels 11-3

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Alfonso Soriano homered twice for the second straight night and drove in a career-high seven runs, giving him a staggering 13 RBIs in two games while powering the suddenly potent New York Yankees to an 11-3 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday.

Soriano hit an early grand slam and became the third player to knock in at least six runs in back-to-back games since RBIs became an official statistic in 1920, according to STATS. The others were Texas' Rusty Greer in August 1997 and Milwaukee's Geoff Jenkins in April 2001.

Robinson Cano went 4 for 4 to pass Hall of Famer Phil Rizzuto for 15th place on the franchise hits list, and the Yankees hammered Angels ace Jered Weaver (7-6) in opening an 8-0 cushion by the second inning for Ivan Nova (6-4).

Nova, who has been outstanding since rejoining the rotation on July 5, worked around 10 hits in 7 1-3 innings. He's been hurt by a lack of run support recently, but that was no problem this time. Weaver came in 6-1 with a 1.72 ERA in his last nine starts and had won four straight decisions.

BLUE JAYS 4, RED SOX 3, 10 INNINGS

TORONTO (AP) — Brett Lawrie singled home the winning run in the 10th inning and Toronto beat Boston to handing the AL East-leading Red Sox their fourth loss in six games.

Rajai Davis doubled off Brandon Workman (3-2) to begin the 10th and went to third on Jose Bautista's grounder.

Edwin Encarnacion was intentionally walked to bring up Lawrie, who lined a two-strike pitch off the glove of shortstop Stephen Drew, bringing Davis home with the winning run. Brad Lincoln (1-1) worked 1 1-3 innings as the Blue Jays recovered to win after Boston's Mike Napoli hit a tying, two-run homer with two outs in the ninth.



New York Yankees' Alfonso Soriano leaps after hitting a first-inning grand slam off Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Jered Weaver in a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2013, in New York.
Associated Press

David Ortiz also added a solo blast in the sixth, his 23rd.

TIGERS 6, WHITE SOX 4

CHICAGO (AP) — Miguel Cabrera hit a towering three-run homer and Detroit ended a three-game skid with a win over Chicago. A year after winning the Triple Crown, Cabrera has 38 homers, 114 RBIs and is hitting .360 for the AL Central-leading Tigers, who had lost four of five following a 12-game winning streak.

Despite surrendering a

season-high 11 hits, Tigers starter Rick Porcello (9-6) allowed just three runs in six innings to get the victory.

The White Sox closed to 6-4 in the eighth on an RBI single by Alexei Ramirez to make it 6-4. John Danks (2-10) pitched into the eighth, allowing six runs — four earned — on nine hits for Chicago.

RAYS 5, MARINERS 4

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Jason Bourgeois hit an RBI single to cap Tampa Bay's two-run rally in the ninth inning and the Rays ended a

six-game losing streak with a win over Seattle.

The Rays trailed 4-3 when Ben Zobrist opened the ninth with a triple off the top of the right-field wall against rookie Danny Farquhar (0-1).

Matt Joyce singled to tie it, Evan Longoria doubled and Will Myers was intentionally walked to load the bases. Bourgeois singled to right over the Mariners' drawn-in outfield.

Joel Peralta (2-5) pitched one inning. Farquhar didn't retire any of the five batters

he faced.

Myers' two-run homer cut the margin to 4-3 in the sixth after a leadoff double by Longoria.

INDIANS 9, TWINS 8, 12 INNINGS

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Michael Brantley hit a sacrifice fly in the 12th inning and Cleveland rallied past Minnesota for just its third win in the last 10 games.

Nick Swisher and Jason Kipnis singled off Ryan Pressly (3-3) to open the 12th. Swisher moved to third on a fly out and scored easily on Brantley's sac fly to center field.

Carlos Santana and Jason Giambi homered for the Indians. Chris Perez (5-2) blew a save but got the win, and Joe Smith earned his second save.

Santana homered off Glen Perkins in the 10th to give Cleveland an 8-7 lead. Joe Mauer, who had five hits, responded in the bottom half with a shot off Perez.

ASTROS 2, ATHLETICS 1, 11 INNINGS

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Carlos Corporan hit an RBI double in the 11th inning, lifting the Astros to a win over the Athletics.

Jose Altuve singled with one out off A's reliever Sean Doolittle (3-4) and was headed for third on Corporan's double when Oakland center fielder Chris Young bobbled the ball. Altuve alertly rounded third and scored the tie-breaking run while Corporan was caught in a rundown between second and third.

Yoenis Cespedes singled and scored Oakland's run. The A's have dropped nine of 13 and fell two games behind first-place Texas in the West.

Lucas Harrell (6-13) pitched one inning for the win while Josh Fields earned his second save.

INTERLEAGUE

RANGERS 5, BREWERS 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Elvis Andrus broke out of a slump with two hits and two RBIs, and Texas rallied for three runs in the seventh inning to beat Milwaukee. □

NL Capsules

Dodgers rally to beat Mets 5-4 for 8th win in row

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Yasiel Puig turned a slow bouncer past the Mets' diving shortstop into a one-out double in the 12th inning then scored on Adrian Gonzalez's two-base hit, lifting the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 5-4 victory over New York on Wednesday night that extended their winning streak to eight games.

Andre Ethier tied the game with a two-run homer of LaTroy Hawkins in the ninth inning.

Puig legged out a double that glanced off the glove of shortstop Omar Quintanilla and into center field after going hitless in his first five at-bats.

Gonzalez hit the next pitch off Pedro Feliciano (0-1) down the left field line, maintaining the Dodgers' 7 1/2-game lead over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Paco Rodriguez (3-2) pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings for the victory.

The Dodgers completed a three-game sweep of the Mets with their sixth walk-off win of the season.

NATIONALS 6, GIANTS 5

WASHINGTON (AP) — Denard Span made a diving catch in deep center field with two runners on base for the final out, and Washington held off San Francisco to earn its fifth straight victory.

Jordan Zimmermann (14-6) increased his NL-leading win total, allowing one run in seven innings and outpitching Tim Lincecum (6-12). Washington matched its longest winning streak of the season and moved within one victory of .500 for the first time since July 20.

The Giants scored once in the ninth off Rafael Soriano, and put runners on first and second with two outs. Hunter Pence hit a drive to left-center, and Span ran it down near the warning track to preserve the win.

Ian Desmond homered and Anthony Rendon had two RBIs in a five-run fourth

inning that put Washington up 6-1.

REDS 5, CUBS 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Bronson Arroyo pitched seven crisp innings, Todd Frazier homered and the Reds beat the Cubs to complete a three-game series sweep.

Arroyo (11-9) allowed two hits, struck out seven and walked none in his second straight win.

The crafty right-hander retired his first nine batters and faced the minimum through six innings.

The Cubs wasted a solid start by Chris Rusin (2-2) in their fourth straight loss. The left-hander allowed two runs and three hits while throwing just 76 pitches over six innings.

PIRATES 5, CARDINALS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Francisco Liriano was dominant coming off the worst outing of his career and the Pirates got home runs from Pedro Alvarez and Garrett Jones in a victory over the Cardinals.

Liriano (13-5) allowed four hits with six strikeouts and needed just 94 pitches to beat the Cardinals for the second time this year.

Matt Carpenter doubled and scored on a groundout by Carlos Beltran in the ninth to snap Liriano's shutout bid. He settled for his second complete game of the year.

Alvarez hit his 29th homer an estimated 440 feet to straightaway center leading off the second against Miller (11-8), and with one out Jones lined his 11th over the right field wall estimated at 392 feet.

ROCKIES 4, PADRES 2

DENVER (AP) — Jorge De La Rose pitched seven solid innings, catcher Yorvit Torrealba completed a remarkable double play by tagging out two runners and the Rockies hung on to beat the Padres.

Corey Dickerson doubled twice, tripled and drove in two runs.

Troy Tulowitzki had two hits and a pair of RBIs as

Colorado completed a 5-1 homestand.

De La Rosa (12-6) allowed two runs on eight hits in running his record in eight day-game starts this season to 6-0 with a 1.57 ERA. He struck out six and walked one.

Andrew Cashner (8-7) gave up three runs on six hits in seven innings. He struck out seven and walked none.

BRAVES 6, PHILLIES 3

ATLANTA (AP) — Chris Johnson drove in three runs, Jason Heyward homered and Brandon Beachy pitched six strong innings to help the Braves beat the Phillies.

The Braves have won two straight and 17 of 19 to lead the majors with a .612 winning percentage.

Philadelphia, which has lost seven of eight series since All-Star break, has dropped 19 of 23. The Phillies have lost 13 of 14 on the road. Rain delayed the start of the game 1 hour, 48 minutes.

Beachy (2-0) held the Phillies scoreless until Dominic Brown's 27th homer cut the lead to 5-2 with one out in the sixth.

John Lannan (3-6) lasted only 1 1-3 innings before leaving with a left knee injury.

INTERLEAGUE DIAMONDBACKS 5, ORIOLES 4, 14 INNINGS

PHOENIX (AP) — Aaron Hill had a game-ending single with one out in the 14th inning to give the Diamondbacks their third straight walk-off win over the Orioles, 5-4. Baltimore led all three games entering the seventh.

Hill forced extra innings with an RBI single in the ninth off Jim Johnson in the Orioles closer's ninth blown save of the season and second in as many days.

Bud Norris (8-10), who started and threw five innings in San Francisco on Sunday, came on in the 14th and walked two batters ahead of Hill's single to take the loss.



Los Angeles Dodgers' Adrian Gonzalez celebrates after hitting a game-winning RBI double during the 12th inning of their baseball game against the New York Mets, Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

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FRI 4:05 | 6:25 | 8:50 | 11:20
SAT 1:55 | 4:05 | 6:25 | 8:50 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:05 | 6:25 | 8:50

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Italian skipper says Cup champ Oracle cheated

BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

Skipper Max Sirena of Italy's Luna Rossa is the latest America's Cup competitor to accuse defending champion Oracle Team USA of cheating in what potentially could be one of the biggest scandals in the regatta's 162-year history. "For sure," Sirena said when asked Thursday at a news conference in San Francisco if he thought Oracle cheated.

Oracle last week acknowledged it modified its boats without permission of the Measurement Committee for four America's Cup World Series regattas last year, which were warm-ups to the 34th America's Cup.

Oracle's admission prompted Grant Dalton, the managing director of Emirates Team New Zealand, to tell the San Francisco Chronicle on Tuesday that he thought the



Max Sirena, right, skipper of Luna Rossa Challenge, of Italy, waves during a ceremony after the boat's America's Cup challenger series semifinal sailing race Saturday, Aug. 10, 2013, in San Francisco.
Associated Press

American syndicate was cheating. Oracle Team USA is owned by software billionaire Larry Ellison, the CEO of Oracle Corp.

An international jury is investigating and can sanction Oracle, including a fine, forfeiture of races or disqualification from the America's Cup.

It's unclear whether the jury

would take the drastic step of disqualifying Oracle. The forfeiture of any races in the best-of-17 America's Cup match, especially if its opponent is powerhouse Emirates Team New Zealand, would certainly hurt Oracle in its quest to defend the oldest trophy in international sports.

Asked if Oracle cheated, Sirena said: "For sure. I

mean it's pretty obvious what they've done, which is pretty bad for our sport. I think it was really — I don't know if it's the right word — disrespectful for all of us, for all of the competitors. But maybe that is that way to work. So you have to ask them if they feel happy how they manage all the 45 event."

The illegal modifications were made to Oracle's 45-foot catamarans, which were prototypes for the high-performance, 72-foot catamarans being sailed this summer on San Francisco Bay.

Asked if it would make them more motivated to beat Oracle if they made it to the America's Cup match, Sirena said: "Yes. It will be great to beat them and to take the Cup back to the real world."

Luna Rossa faces Emirates Team New Zealand in the best-of-13 Louis Vuitton Cup final starting Saturday.

The winner advances to face Oracle Team USA in the 34th America's Cup starting Sept. 7.

Luna Rossa is a decided underdog to the Kiwis, who were 5-0 against the Italians in the round-robins, including a race Luna Rossa boycotted over a rules spat.

Sirena was with Oracle in 2010, in charge of the radical wing sail that helped propel the San Francisco-based syndicate to a two-race sweep of Alinghi of Switzerland off Valencia, Spain.

Sirena was angered earlier this summer when Russell Coutts, the most dominant skipper in America's Cup history and the CEO of Oracle Team USA, called the Italians "a bunch of spoiled rich kids dressed in Prada gear" after Sirena threatened to skip the opening race of the Louis Vuitton Cup round-robins due to the rules spat. □

Federer rallies

Continued from Page 18

On the women's side, second-seeded Victoria Azarenka, fourth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska, fifth-seeded Li Na and 14th-seeded Jelena Jankovic were among those advancing.

It appeared that Federer wasn't long for the tournament after a stunningly bad start against Haas. The 35-year-old Haas needed only 31 minutes to win the first set and was up 4-2 in the second before Federer started to approach the net, hitting shots with confidence and taking control. "You know, being down 6-1, 3-1, you don't feel like Superman out there," Fe-

derer said. "You feel a bit slower, you feel a bit weaker, you feel a bit softer, whatever it is. I was trying to push myself. But at the end, as the match wore on, I felt better.

"That's always good news."

He pumped his right fist after a backhand shot hugged the line to set up a break point that put him up 5-3 in the final set, and again when he finished it off — one of his few satisfying moments in months.

Federer was beaten in the second round at Wimbledon by Sergiy Stakhovsky, his earliest exit from a Grand Slam event since 2003. That ended Federer's streak of reaching the quarterfinals in 36 straight

major tournaments. The improbable upsets were just starting.



Sloane Stephens, of the United States, serves against Jelena Jankovic, from Serbia, at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013, in Mason, Ohio. Jankovic won 3-6, 7-5, 7-5.
Associated Press

Federer lost to a 114th-ranked qualifier in the semifinals at Hamburg and was beaten by a 55th-ranked player in his opening match at Gstaad, Switzerland. There were reasons that figured in the losses: He was experimenting with a larger racket and his back was bothering him. He skipped Montreal last week to get ready for Cincinnati, hoping a good showing this week would get him ready for the U.S. Open. "Every match gives me more info to tell me if I'm on the right path or not," he said. "But I'm a strong believer that I am on the right path right now, and I just need to make sure that mentally I stay cool about it.

"Today for a long time it wasn't looking good, but these are the kind of

matches I need right now." Tursunov pulled off the day's biggest upset, beating Ferrer 6-2, 6-4. The 44th-ranked Tursunov never lost his serve while reaching the quarterfinals for the first time in six appearances at the event.

On the women's side, Jankovic overcame a slow start and beat American Sloane Stephens 3-6, 7-5, 7-5. Stephens upset third-seeded Maria Sharapova in the second round, but struggled with her serve after she won the first set against Jankovic.

"I didn't play my best and I think I didn't serve well at all, and she obviously didn't serve at her best," Stephens said. "So it was definitely a tough day."

Azarenka advanced with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over No. 33 Magdalena Rybarikova. □

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Digital era threatens tenuous future of drive-ins

Associated Press

LANCASTER, Ohio (AP) —

Through 80 summers or so, drive-in theaters have managed to remain a part of the American fabric, surviving technological advances and changing tastes that put thousands out of business. Now the industry says a good chunk of the 350 or so left could be forced to turn out the lights because they can't afford to adapt to the digital age. Movie studios are phasing out 35 mm film prints, and the switch to an eventually all-digital distribution system is pushing the outdoor theaters with huge screens to make the expensive change to digital projectors. The \$70,000-plus investment required per screen is significant, especially for what is in most places a summertime business kept alive by mom-and-pop operators. Paying for the switch would suck up most owners' profits for years to come. The digital transformation has been underway in the film industry for more than a decade because of the better picture and sound quality and the ease of delivery — no more huge reels of film. The time frame isn't clear, but production companies are already phasing out traditional 35 mm film, and it's expected to disappear completely over the next few years.

"We know fewer and fewer prints are being struck," says D. Edward Vogel, who runs the historic Bengies Drive-In in Baltimore and is spokesman for the United Drive-In Theatre Owners Association. The United Drive-In Theatre Owners Association figures 50 to 60 theaters have already converted. At least one operator decided to close instead of switch, but it's not clear



This book cover image released by Touchstone shows "Skinnygirl Solutions: Your Straight-Up Guide to Home, Health, Family, Career, Style, and Sex," by Bethenny Frankel.

Associated Press

how many more might bite the dust.

or you'll close your doors," says Walt Effinger, whose

has been showing movies on an 80-foot (24-meter) screen since 1948.

"Some will. If you're not doing enough business to justify the expense, you're just going to have to close up."

Effinger worked at the Skyvue off and on for 30 years before he and his wife, Cathie, bought it two decades ago. They converted to digital last year, the first of Ohio's 29 drive-ins to do so. Because the films now come on a device the size of a portable hard drive and are downloaded to his projector, it's less hassle for him on movie nights and gives viewers a stunningly brighter,

gram will reimburse theater owners 80 percent of the cost of conversion over time, Vogel says, but because most drive-ins are small, family-run businesses, it's hard for many to find the money, period. And the reimbursement doesn't cover the tens of thousands of dollars more that many will have to spend renovating projection rooms to create the climate-controlled conditions needed for the high-tech equipment.

It's a dilemma also faced by America's small independent theaters, many of them struggling to pay for conversion to digital years after corporate-owned multiplexes already did it. Darci and Bill Wemple, owners of two drive-ins in upstate New York, hope an online competition will help them with the \$225,000 to \$250,000 they figure it will cost to switch their three screens. □



In this July 26, 2013 photo, 35 mm film winds its way through a projector at Bengies Drive-In Theatre in Middle River, Md. The latest threat to the existence of drive-in theaters is the film industry's conversion from 35 mm film to digital prints, and the expense involved in converting projectors to the digital age.

Associated Press

"Everyone knows eventually that you'll be digital

Skyvue Drive-In in the Ohio town of Lancaster

clearer image. An industry incentive pro-

Warnings of slower sales drive US stocks lower

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Grim sales forecasts from two major companies and concern that the Federal Reserve will soon start withdrawing its support for the economy pummeled the stock market Thursday. The Dow Jones industrial

average slumped 225 points, its worst day in nearly two months. Investors also dumped bonds, driving the yield on the 10-year Treasury note to its highest level in more than two years. Before the start of trading, Wal-Mart cut its estimates for annual revenue and profit, warning that cau-

tious shoppers are spending less. The news followed a disappointing revenue forecast from Cisco Systems late Wednesday. In a twist, more signs of resilience in the U.S. economy weighed on the stock market. Reports on inflation and the job market appeared to raise the odds that the

Fed would begin winding down its massive bond-buying program as early as next month. Many investors think that the Fed's effort has underpinned the stock market's record run.

"People are worried that this move up in interest rates will kill the recovery, and we won't see the anticipated second-half improvement in growth and corporate earnings," said Alec Young, global equity strategist at S&P Capital IQ. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 24.07 points, or 1.4 percent, to 1,661.32. The selling swept across all 10 industry groups in the index. The Dow lost 225.47 points, or 1.5 percent, to 15,112.19. The Nasdaq composite index fell 63.16 points, or 1.7 percent, to 3,606.12. Some investors cautioned against reading too much into Thursday's drop.

"It seems like an overreaction today," said Randy Frederick, managing director of active trading and derivatives at the Schwab Center for Financial Research. Corporate earnings are solid and the economy is improving, he noted. The stock market hit an all-time high two weeks ago. The Dow is still up 15 per-

cent in 2013; the S&P 500 up 16 percent.

The government reported that the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits dropped to 320,000 last week. That's the lowest level since October 2007, two months before the start of the Great Recession.

A slowly improving economy should eventually lead to higher spending and more sales for big companies. But that's down the road. Right now, investors are more focused on the Fed's next move, said Natalie Trunow, the chief investment officer at Calvert Investments. "There's this counter-intuitive reaction to economic news," Trunow said. "Positive data comes out and markets aren't excited about it. They say, 'Uh-oh, the stimulus will be removed.' " Thursday's corporate news was mostly negative. Wal-Mart fell \$1.99, or 3 percent, to \$74.41 after the world's largest retailer cut its profit and revenue forecasts for 2013. It also reported second-quarter results that missed Wall Street's estimates.

Cisco Systems announced plans to cut 5 percent



Specialist Stephen Naughton works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013. Warnings of weaker sales from two major companies and concern that the Federal Reserve could ease off its support for the economy sent the stock market spiraling lower Thursday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

US homebuilder confidence nears 8-year high

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

Confidence among U.S. homebuilders is at its highest level in nearly eight years, fueled by optimism that demand for new homes will drive sales growth into next year. The brighter sales outlook is the latest sign pointing to a sustained pickup in construction in coming months and comes as applications for permits to build single-family houses are at a five-year high.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Thursday jumped to 59 this month from 56 in July. It was the fourth consecutive monthly gain.

A reading above 50 indicates more builders view sales conditions as good, rather than poor.

The last time the reading was above 59 was in November 2005, when it was 61. U.S. sales of new homes peaked in July that year. Measures of current sales conditions and builders' outlook for single-family home sales over the next six months each increased to their highest levels in at least seven years. Builders' gauge of traffic by prospective buyers was unchanged.

The positive builder confidence index appeared to cheer investors. Homebuilder shares traded higher Thursday at midday.

Steady hiring, rising home prices and still-low mortgage rates are encouraging more people to buy homes. New-home sales jumped 8.3 percent in June to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 497,000, the

fastest pace in five years. That's still below the 700,000 pace consistent with healthy markets, but represents an increase of 38 percent over the previous 12 months, the biggest annual gain since January 1992.

The rise in demand, home prices and a thinning supply of previously occupied homes on the market have helped make builders more optimistic about their sales prospects, which has led them to step up construction.

Applications for permits to build single-family homes rose for the third straight month in June to 624,000, the highest since May 2008. That suggests home construction should rebound in the coming months.

Though new homes represent only a fraction of

the housing market, they have an outsized impact on the economy. Each home built creates an average of three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in tax revenue, according to NAHB statistics.

Many of the large, publicly traded homebuilders have been reporting sharp growth in completed sales and new-home orders this year.

And sales for privately held U.S. homebuilders are up 18 percent over the past year, according to data provider Sagentworks Inc.

Rising mortgage interest rates could spell trouble for builders, however.

Mortgage rates spiked in June after Chairman Ben Bernanke indicated that the Federal Reserve could slow its bond purchases later this year. □

of its workforce, roughly 4,000 employees, as sales slow. CEO John Chambers called the global economy "challenging and inconsistent." Cisco plunged \$1.89, or 7 percent, to \$24.48, the biggest drop of the 30 big companies in the Dow.

Cisco's announcement led to selling in other technology stocks because the company is widely regarded as a bellwether for the industry. Cisco sells a wide range of products to corporations and governments and its fiscal quarters end a month later than most major technology companies. As a result, Cisco's performance gives investors a glimpse into current conditions.

In the market for U.S. government bonds, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note jumped as high as 2.81 percent, the highest level since July 2011. □

Wal-Mart cutting profit outlook on shopper worries

A. D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's biggest retailer, said the weak global economy continues to batter its low-income shoppers.

The chain on Thursday cut its annual profit and revenue outlook for the year after reporting second-quarter results that missed Wall Street estimates. The company's stock fell nearly 3 percent on the news.

Wal-Mart's sober assessment adds to worries about consumer spending that arose when Macy's Inc. lowered its profit expectations for the year after reporting disappointing results on Thursday and Kohl's Corp. did the same on the following day even after posting solid results.

But Wal-Mart's results are even more troubling because it is considered an economic bellwether, with the company accounting for nearly 10 percent of nonautomotive retail spending in the U.S. Wal-Mart's latest performance appears to show that many people continue to struggle in the U.S. and abroad.

In the U.S., while jobs are easier to get and the housing market is gaining momentum, these improvements have not been enough to get Americans to spend. On top of that, Wal-Mart said Americans continue to struggle with a 2 percentage-point increase in the Social Security payroll tax since Jan. 1. During a call with the media, Wal-Mart Chief Financial Officer Charles Holley said the top three concerns among its customers are jobs, food costs and gas and energy prices.

"The retail environment remains challenging in the U.S. and our international markets, as customers are cautious in their spending," Holley said in a statement, noting a "reluctance" among customers to spend on things items like flat-screen TVs. □

Dell's 2Q earnings fall 72% amid PC sales slide

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Dell's woes worsened during its most recent quarter as the slumping personal computer maker resorted to rampant price cutting to slow a sales decline driven by a growing reliance on smartphones and tablets to connect to the Internet and perform other technological tasks.

The discounting contributed to a 72 percent drop in Dell's fiscal second-quarter earnings.

The disheartening results announced Thursday could help Dell Inc.'s board persuade more of the company's stockholders that they're better off accepting a buyout offer from a group led by CEO Michael Dell rather than risk further financial deterioration in the months ahead. After Dell's report came out, ISI Group analyst Brian Marshall advised shareholders to "take the money and run."

Shareholders are scheduled to vote on Michael

Dell's \$24.8 billion bid on Sept. 12. The proposal faces fierce resistance from two major Dell stockholders, billionaire Carl Icahn and investment fund Southeastern Asset Management, who contend the Texas company is worth more than the \$13.88 per share being offered by Michael Dell and his main ally, Silver Lake Partners.

The opposing arguments have been compelling enough to prompt Dell's board to delay the shareholder vote on the deal

three times. Before the last delay, Michael Dell and Silver Lake agreed to pay a special dividend of 13 cents per share to supplement a bid that had already been raised from \$13.65 per share to \$13.75 per share.

Dell's stock dipped 6 cents to \$13.65 in extended trading after the report came out.

Although Dell's fiscal second-quarter results painted a dismal picture of the PC market, the numbers could provide Icahn and Southeastern with material to bolster their contention that the company will fare better in the future as it diversifies into higher-end computing for companies, business software, data storage and technology consulting.

Some of the Dell divisions focusing on those areas showed progress in the latest quarter. For instance, revenue in Dell's services division edged up by 3 percent compared with the same time last year and also made slightly more money. Revenue in the business software arm more than tripled during the quarter, largely because of an acquisition, but the losses widened in that division.

Michael Dell also sees better days ahead for his company. □



Boxes containing Dell computers are stacked on an upper shelf of a Best Buy store in Seekonk, Mass. Dell's earnings plunged 72 percent during its 2013 fiscal second quarter as the slumping personal computer maker struggled to cope with technological upheaval and shareholder unrest. (APPhoto/Stew Milne)

Nordstrom lowers outlook despite higher 2Q profit

NEW YORK (AP) — Nordstrom on Thursday joined the ranks of major retailers cutting their profit outlooks for the year, citing disappointing sales from its more affluent shoppers.

The bleaker forecast from the department store operator came despite a higher profit for the second quarter, which got a boost from the chain's Annual Sale.

Its stock fell 3.3 percent to \$57.40 in after-hours trading Thursday.

Macy's Inc. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's biggest retailer, also cut their outlooks for the year in reporting their quarterly results. But Nordstrom's move

raises concerns about more affluent consumers, whose spending has been rebounding since the recession.

The company, based in Seattle, is considered a barometer of luxury spending and growth in the sector is seen as a good sign for the economic recovery. But its shoppers apparently weren't immune to the pressures being felt in the broader economy.

Nordstrom is also grappling with new demands from shoppers armed with smartphones. That's pushing the department store, considered the gold standard in customer service, to make changes such as

offering free shipping for online orders. Additionally, the company is looking for growth beyond the U.S. and is heading to Canada starting next year.

For the quarter, Nordstrom said sales at stores open at least a year rose 4.4 percent. But for its luxury department stores, the measure slipped 0.7 percent. It said the Southeast and Southwest delivered the strongest results.

Nordstrom also sells clothing in its Rack stores, online and through catalogs.

For the quarter through Aug. 3, the company says it earned \$184 million, or 93 cents per share, topping the 88 cents per share ana-

lysts expected. In the same period a year ago, Nordstrom earned \$156 million, or 75 cents per share.

Revenue rose 6 percent to \$3.2 billion, but was short of the \$3.29 billion Wall Street expected, according to FactSet.

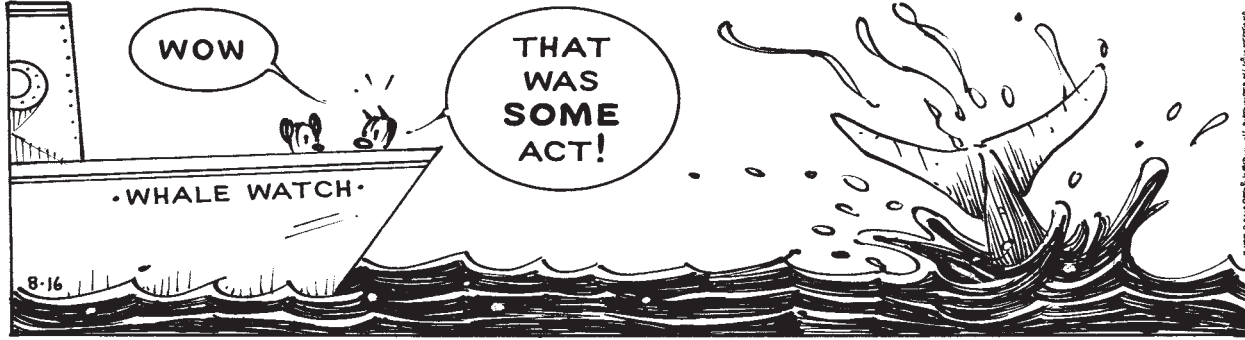
Looking ahead, the company now expects sales at stores open at least a year to rise 2 to 3 percent, compared with its prior outlook of 3 to 5 percent.

Its earnings are expected to be \$3.60 to \$3.70 per share.

That's down from its previous forecast of \$3.65 to \$3.80 per share.

Its stock is up 5 percent over the past 12 months. □

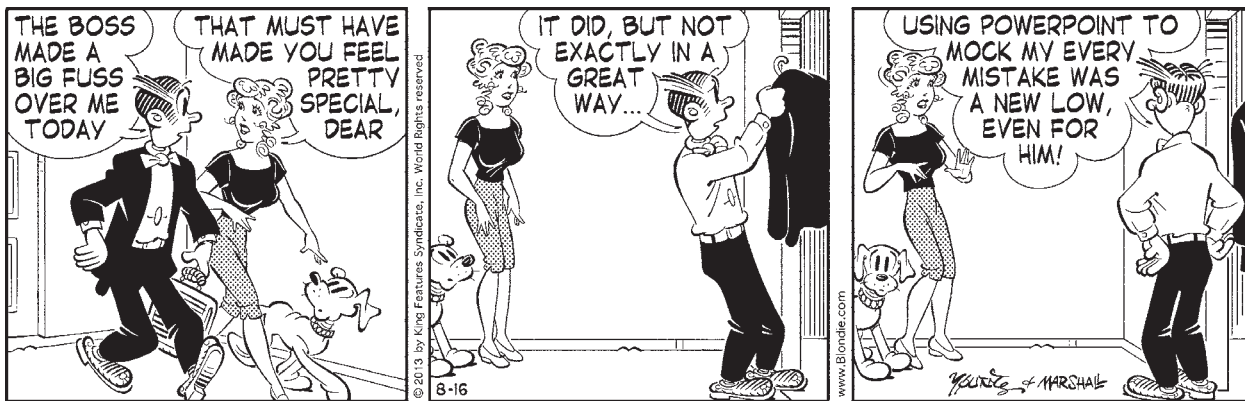
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				1	5		6	
					4	1		8
			7				3	
		9					7	2
6				2				4
8	7					5		
	5				2			
4		1	8					
	9		1	3				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

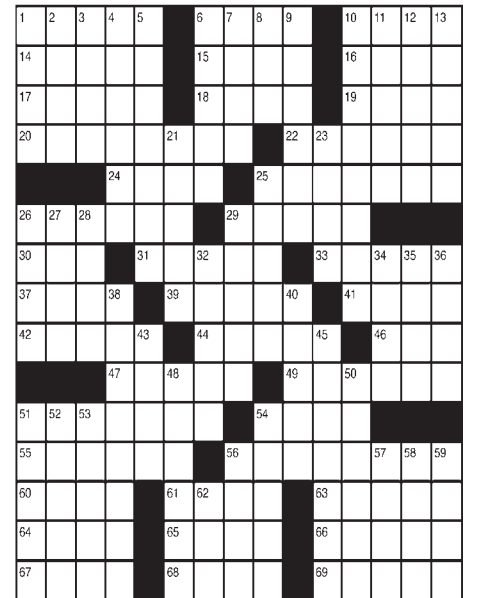
5	7	2	1	4	8	3	9	6
1	8	9	3	5	6	4	2	7
4	3	6	2	7	9	5	1	8
6	9	5	8	3	1	7	4	2
2	4	7	9	6	5	8	3	1
8	1	3	7	2	4	6	5	9
7	2	1	4	8	3	9	6	5
3	5	8	6	9	2	1	7	4
9	6	4	5	1	7	2	8	3

ACROSS

- 1 off;
- disregard
- 6 Title for former Iranian rulers
- 10 Journey
- 14 Sierra
- African nation
- 15 Bull, in Spain
- 16 Got up
- 17 Refueling ship
- 18 Actress Chase
- 19 Qualified
- 20 Start of the U.S. Constitution
- 22 Bandleader
- Cugat
- 24 Paul, before his conversion
- 25 Feels bitter about
- 26 Voice box
- 29 Elephant teeth
- 30 Tavern order
- 31 Song of an Alpine goat
- 33 Punctures
- 37 Cubs or Bears
- 39 Despondent
- 41 Christmas
- 42 One living abroad
- 44 Money hoarder
- 46 Religious sister
- 47 Remained optimistic
- 49 Liquefied
- 51 Toiled
- 54 Actress Russo
- 55 Bigger
- 56 Snail's feeler
- 60 Zone
- 61 Rue or Gilbert
- 63 "Come ___?"; words of those who missed it
- 64 ___ and groan; complain
- 65 Skunk's defense
- 66 Tempted
- 67 Actor Griffith
- 68 Gives a silent assent
- 69 Grains planted

DOWN

- 1 Dinner in a sty
- 38 Cabinet wood



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/16/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

RENO	SALSA	SPIT
USED	TRAIL	EASE
SPED	REITERATES	
END	LIAR	ASHES
	LEAKS	ADO
STEPPE	SWINGS	
OASIS	IGLOO	RYE
DISC	STEEL	SARA
ALL	STEED	FEMUR
	SYSTEM	TRAMPS
	MOM	AROMA
AGAIN	SNAG	RUM
CORRESPOND	FIRE	
ERIK	AERIE	RAGS
SEAS	DATES	ONES

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8/16/13

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 40 Nation in the Middle East | 53 Sandwich requirement |
| 43 Ripped | 54 Raises, as kids |
| 45 Tenants' homes | 56 Trampled |
| 48 Human being | 57 Give a hoot |
| 50 NFL or NHL | 58 Fibbed |
| 51 Peruvian pack animal | 59 Stops |
| 52 Burr or Spelling | 62 Hustle & bustle |



The Imaginary Rising Deficit

PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2013 The New York Times
Steve Benen, a political blogger at MSNBC, recently caught the fact-checking Web site PolitiFact falling down on the job. But it's actually even worse than he wrote.

What happened was that Representative Eric Cantor, the Republican congressman from Virginia, spoke on a Sunday TV show earlier this month about the United States' "growing deficit," when in fact the deficit is shrinking rapidly. Yet PolitiFact managed, somehow, to declare Mr. Cantor's claim "half true." The crucial point here, however, isn't just that Mr. Cantor said something that was unequivocally false.

It is that he got the whole story upside down. The central fact at the heart of any rational fiscal debate right now is that deficits are coming down fast, even as the economy remains depressed. The sharp decline in deficits means that the medium-term debt outlook is no longer remotely scary; indeed, even if you project out to 2030 it doesn't look too bad. At the same time, sharply reducing deficits in a depressed economy, with interest rates up against the zero lower

bound, looks like extremely bad macroeconomic policy.

So that's what we should be discussing: Do we want deficits coming down this fast? Yet here we have a senior G.O.P. official talking as if we lived in an alternative universe in which deficits were rising, not falling. And then PolitiFact declares his statement half true.

It is, of course, the same old problem: news organizations in general, and PolitiFact in particular, are set up to deal with a world in which both parties generally respect reality, and in which dishonesty and delusion are roughly equally distributed between the parties.

Faced with the highly asymmetric reality, these organizations choke, treating mild Democratic exaggerations as if they were equivalent to outright falsehoods on the other side, and treating wild misrepresentations on the G.O.P. side as if they were slight misstatements.

This should be simple: PolitiFact should just rule on the facts; it should seek to be party-blind, which isn't the same as being "nonpartisan," with its connotation of "balance." But apparently it can't do that. □

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Oceanfront \$29k 3 BEDRM \$29k
Plat Plus Holiday 51 OV -\$42k
Plat Plus NY 52 OV- \$49k

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

Platinum 2B Oceanview \$19k
Oceanfront PLAT \$29k
Platinum 1B OV \$12,500
Gold season 2B OV \$10,000
Oceanfront 2B \$17,000
1B Oceanfront \$9,500

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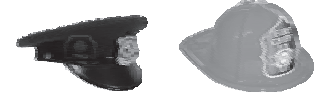


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Nevada petroglyphs the oldest in North America

SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

PYRAMID LAKE, Nevada (AP) — Ancient rock etchings along a dried-up lake bed in Nevada have been confirmed to be the oldest recorded petroglyphs in North America, dating back at least 10,000 years.

The petroglyphs found on limestone boulders near Pyramid Lake in northern Nevada's high desert are similar in design to etchings found at a lake in Oregon that are believed to be at least 7,600 years old. Unlike later drawings that sometimes depict a spear or antelope, the carvings are abstract with tightly clustered geometric designs — some are diamond patterns, others have short parallel lines on top of a longer line.

Scientists can't tell for sure who carved them, but they were found on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's reservation land.

"We initially thought people 12,000 or 10,000 years ago were primitive, but their artistic expressions and technological expertise associated with these points a much different picture," said Eugene Hattori, the curator of anthropology at

the Nevada State Museum in Carson City who co-wrote a paper on the findings earlier this month in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

The petroglyphs could be as much as 14,800 years old, said Larry Benson, a geochemist who used radiocarbon testing to date the etchings and was the lead author of the research paper.

Radiocarbon testing dated the carbonate layer underlying the petroglyphs to roughly 14,800 years ago. Geochemical data and sediment and rock samples from adjacent Pyramid Lake show they were exposed to air from 13,200 to 14,800 years ago, and again from 10,500 to 11,300 years ago.

"Whether they turn out to be as old as 14,800 years ago or as recent as 10,500 years ago, they are still the oldest petroglyphs that have been dated in North America," said Benson, a former research scientist for the U.S. Geological Survey and current curator of anthropology at the University of Colorado Natural History Museum in Boulder.

Dennis Jenkins, an archaeologist with the University



This May 2012 photo provided by the U.S. Geological Survey shows ancient carvings on limestone boulders in northern Nevada's high desert near Pyramid Lake. The carvings have been confirmed to be the oldest recorded petroglyphs in North America - at least 10,500 years old.

Associated Press

of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History, called it a significant discovery. He led recent excavations of obsidian spear points near Paisley, Oregon, that he dated back 13,200 years, and noted that the bigger challenge is identifying who created the petroglyphs.

"When you get back into this time period, if you speak with Native Americans they will tell you they were made

(created) there and that is obviously their people and their artwork," Jenkins said. "But approaching it from a scientific point of view — what we can prove — at this point, it is impossible to connect these to any tribal group."

William Cannon, a long-time archaeologist for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management who discovered the petroglyphs at Long Lake in Oregon, brought

the Nevada site to Hattori's attention years ago. He said they bore similarities to petroglyphs at nearby Winnemucca Lake, and Hattori began connecting the dots after Benson spotted the carbonate coating on the rocks.

The etchings in Nevada and Oregon have relatively deep, carved lines dominated by linear, curved and circular geometrical designs. Some feature "tree-form designs" with a series of evenly spaced, vertically oriented 'V' shapes bisected by a vertical line. Researchers have suggested the etchings represent various meteorological symbols, such as clouds and lightning, perhaps the Milky Way.

"But we really have nothing to go on for these particular petroglyphs that go back 10,000 or more years," Hattori said Wednesday. Benson has no idea what they mean.

"When I looked at it, I said, 'These things are incredibly beautiful.' We have so much beautiful, old Native American stuff in the United States, but this shows it didn't necessarily get more interesting or more pretty with time," he said. □



In this Tuesday, June 11, 2013 file photo, a motorist puts fuel in his car's gas tank at a service station in Springfield, Ill.

Associated Press

AP Source: Ford to restate hybrid gas mileage

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Ford will reduce gas mileage estimates for its C-Max hybrid, following a government investigation into consumer complaints that the car's actual mileage was lower, a person familiar with the matter said Thursday.

Ford will drop the combined city-highway mileage listed on the window sticker from 47 mpg to 43 mpg (20 kpl to 18.3 kpl), according to the person, who asked not to be identified because the change has not been formally announced.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which monitors gas mileage test-

ing, began its probe earlier this year after consumers complained that the C-Max's mileage fell short of estimates.

Ford followed EPA methods to calculate the C-Max mileage, but in this case, the numbers still were overstated, according to the person familiar with the matter.

Ford spokesman Todd Nissen would not comment Thursday afternoon. The company had scheduled an announcement about gas-mileage on Friday, without giving specifics.

It's the second time in less than a year that the EPA has made an automaker reduce window sticker mileage figures. In Novem-

ber, the EPA found inflated numbers on 13 Hyundai and Kia models.

The Korean automakers acknowledged the problem with more than 900,000 vehicles. They changed the numbers and blamed a procedural error. As compensation, Hyundai and Kia have paid owners around \$88 annually, based on the amount the mileage was overstated and the average price of gasoline. The customer payments are likely to cost the companies millions of dollars.

Automakers follow EPA procedures to test vehicles, and the EPA spot-checks their results or checks them in response to consumer complaints. □

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'That '70s Show' actress Kelly dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "That '70s Show" actress Lisa Robin Kelly has died at age 43.

Manager Craig Wyckoff says Kelly died Wednesday at a Los Angeles addiction treatment facility she had entered early this week. No official cause of death was disclosed.

Kelly portrayed Laurie Forman, sister of Topher Grace's lead character Eric, on the Fox series. It concluded in 2006.

Unlike some of her co-stars — Grace, Ashton Kutcher and Laura Prepon — Kelly fell out of the spotlight after appearing on the sitcom until she started making headlines for personal troubles.

She was arrested in November along with husband Robert Joseph Gil-



In this Nov. 26, 2012 file photo provided by Iredell County, NC, sheriff's department, actress Lisa Robin Kelly is shown after her arrest for assault.

Associated Press

liam in connection with a disturbance at their home in North Carolina.

In June, she was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving after her car stalled in California. □

Original Skinnygirl scoop on living life well

BROOKE LEFFERTS
Associated Press

Many women ask if they can have it all. In her new book, "Skinnygirl Solutions: Your Straight-Up Guide to Home, Health, Family, Career, Style, and Sex," Bethenny Frankel says you can, just not all at once.

Frankel has been a Hollywood assistant, event planner, professional chef and reality TV star, making her experienced in many areas. She'll soon launch a national talk show and is a notable entrepreneur, with multimillion-dollar businesses from pre-made cocktails and nutritional foods to shapewear and workout equipment — all aimed at women. She knows exactly who her customers are, and attributes her success to understanding what

women want and how to solve their problems.

The hundreds of fan questions Frankel receives via social media and personal appearances inspired many topics in the book. In the wellness chapters, she advises readers to dump the diets, focus on making good food choices and not deprive themselves. Refuting every excuse for not maintaining a healthy eating plan, she gets extremely specific, from what to order at a Chinese restaurant to the best snacks for premenstrual syndrome. Frankel writes frankly about how women see their bodies and what head games they play when it comes to food and exercise. While she admits she's not a dietitian, her plan is reasonable and forgiving.

The lifestyle section promotes time management, keeping order at home, travel and entertaining. Some readers may find the detailed instructions on how to use a smartphone micromanaging. Many of the tips on vacation and party planning seem obvious, but may be aimed at younger fans with less life experience.

The chapters on work are beneficial for women interested in rejuvenating their careers or starting a business.

Frankel tells fascinating



This book cover image released by Touchstone shows "Skinnygirl Solutions: Your Straight-Up Guide to Home, Health, Family, Career, Style, and Sex," by Bethenny Frankel.

Associated Press

behind-the-scenes stories about her business deals, showcasing successes and admitting failures. She offers advice to moguls-in-the-making, including a checklist to determine if you and your idea have the right stuff, and lists of pros and cons of quitting your job and becoming self-employed. Frankel also emphasizes the importance of managing money as a form of self-empowerment.

The voice is classic Bethenny: candid, sassy and opinionated, punctuated with self-deprecating humor. She writes like she's talking to her girlfriends — unedited and not afraid to show a vulnerable side in the brief mentions of her painful divorce. With hundreds of self-help books, Frankel's connection with her fans sets this one apart.

Her ability to tap into how women think and feel creates an intimacy with readers. The book reveals aspects of Frankel's personality that hint at how she's become so accomplished. She's not exaggerating when she calls herself neurotic about cleaning and organizing her home. Her attention to detail seems to translate from the bathroom to the boardroom, as she says she's "obsessive" about getting her products right and keeping her hand in every part of her businesses. □

Russell Simmons sorry for Harriet Tubman sex video

NEW YORK (AP) — Russell Simmons is apologizing for a parody video of U.S. abolitionist Harriet Tubman that appeared on his YouTube channel.

The clip features an actress portraying Tubman — as escaped slave who helped many others to freedom in the 1800s — having sex with her white slave master as someone films it so she can

bribe her boss. The "Harriet Tubman Sex Tape" was posted Wednesday.

The 55-year-old Simmons, founder of Def Jam Records, writes Thursday that he "can now understand why so many people are upset." He said he removed the video after a call from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. □



In this Feb. 18, 2013 file photo, Russell Simmons arrives at the Vanity Fair and Juicy Couture Celebration for the 2013 Vanities Calendar in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Timberlake to perform at MTV Video Music Awards

NEW YORK (AP) — Justin Timberlake is set to perform at the MTV Video Music Awards later this month.

He will also receive the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award at the Aug. 25 awards show, the network said Thursday. Timberlake is tied with Macklemore & Ryan Lewis for the most nominations, with six each.

Timberlake's nominations include video of the year, best male video and pop video for "Mirrors." His comeback album, "The 20/20 Experience," is the year's best-selling album. He'll release "The 20/20 Experience: 2 of 2" on Sept. 30.

Lady Gaga, Kanye West, Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus and Robin Thicke will also perform at the VMAs. □



This July 12, 2013 file photo shows Justin Timberlake performing during the Wireless Festival at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, in east London.

Associated Press

15 years later, Oprah is back in the movies

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The day before Oprah Winfrey began shooting "Lee Daniels' The Butler," she was at the White House, talking to the president.

Her access to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue (this particular trip was for a 2012 campaign interview) is considerably greater than her character's in the film. She plays Gloria Gaines, the wife of a long-serving White House butler (Forest Whitaker), whose service spans seven presidents and decades of civil rights sea changes.

"They said, 'Do you want to talk to some butlers?'" Winfrey recalled in a recent interview. "I said, 'No. You got some butlers' wives? I'll talk to them.'"

It was 15 years ago the last time Winfrey was on the big screen, in the 1998 adaption of Toni Morrison's novel, "Beloved," produced by Winfrey's Harpo Productions. In the time since, she's been slightly busy. "The Oprah Winfrey Show" grew into an enormous cultural force. Her work on the side in film (most memorably in Steven Spielberg's "The Color Purple," for which she received an Oscar nomination) took a back seat to being a television icon and an entrepreneur.

"I would only give my time to something that really mattered to me," she says. "I'm not interested in being in the movies for movies'



Oprah Winfrey arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Lee Daniels' The Butler" at the Regal Cinemas L.A. Live Stadium 14 on Monday, Aug. 12, 2013.

Associated Press

sake."

But Daniels was persistent. He had sought Winfrey for the role Macy Gray ended up playing in 2009's "Precious" (Winfrey became a producer) and several other projects.

"It was hard," Daniels says of the pursuit. "I was looking for something to do with her, and I kept telling her: 'You have got to come back to work,' because she was magnificent in 'The Color Purple.' I wanted it selfishly for myself. I wanted to see her on the screen."

"I gave her a script she couldn't refuse," says Daniels of Danny Strong's screenplay. "I hooked her in. Once I got her in, it was over."

The timing was poor for Winfrey, who was then try-

ing to get her cable network, OWN, off the ground. Though the network is now running more smoothly (it recently became profitable), the start was rocky, trying to find a programming identity and lure viewers to a new destination on the dial.

"I thought it was an important story to tell, even though I was in the midst of cra-a-a-zy business with my network," says Winfrey. "I said to Lee so many times: 'Lee, Lee, Lee. I cannot do this. This is not the time for me.' He was like, 'I'm doing it. I'm going ahead. And you told me, you promised me, Oprah!'"

While Winfrey was making "The Butler," she was knee-deep in running OWN: prepping shows, shopping

for others and negotiating to bring Tyler Perry in as a producer (a move that's been a big factor in OWN's turnaround). But she regrets the balancing act.

"The way to do film is to take yourself out of your other life, do it, and then go back to your other life," Winfrey says.

"I almost had a nervous breakdown."

"I hope something else comes along that will mean as much to me as this does, so that I would take the time and the effort to get it right," she adds. "It's work. It's no plaything."

Picking up acting again after a decade and a half wasn't easy, either, even for a seasoned show-business performer like Winfrey. She hired an acting coach

(Susan Batson, who has coached Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman), she says, "because I was scared." Though OWN made for constant distractions, Winfrey otherwise reveled in acting again.

"On the days that I was in it, in it, in the character, it felt really good," she says. "It's a wonderful muscle to get to exercise again. I really do feel like that's exactly what I was doing. It's like putting away your instrument and not touching it, and then going back in and pulling it out. It felt rewarding."

The smoking and drinking Gaines is a rollicking departure for Winfrey. She's a sometimes surly housewife, flirting with an affair and overflowing with jealousy that her husband spends so much of his time wrapped up in another family's domestic life. She mocks Jackie Kennedy's shoe closet and, with in an obvious wink to audiences, begs: "You know I want to go to the White House." In one memorably scene, she dances to "Soul Train." Had Daniels had his way, the part would have included nudity — a line Winfrey refused to cross.

But Winfrey, 59, has tirelessly promoted the film. Men like Whitaker's modest, dignified character, she says "were the foundation of the African-American community."

"That is who we are," she says. "That is the heart and soul of who we are." □

In pages of Marvel's 'Infinity,' Thanos a threat



MATT MOORE

Associated Press

His grim visage has caused havoc in the Marvel universe before.

Now, with Thanos' galactic-domination plans set

This comic book cover released by Marvel Entertainment LLC shows "Infinity," part one of a six-issue mini-series written by Jonathan Hickman and available on Wednesday, Aug. 14.

Associated Press

to play out beyond the printed pages of Marvel comics, the erstwhile villain is back in the six-issue mini-series "Infinity," along with heroes from Earth and beyond.

"It's called the Marvel universe for a reason. The stakes has never been just Earth, and no event proves that like 'Infinity,'" said Marvel Entertainment editor-in-chief Axel Alonso. "And

at the root of the problem: the so-called mad titan, Thanos."

Writer Jonathan Hickman said the scale of the book, released Wednesday and illustrated by Jim Cheung, is such that it's got an event label, involving scores of plots, characters, arcs and struggles.

The series features Inhumans, Avengers, Guardians of the Galaxy and oth-

er heroes familiar to Marvel Entertainment readers.

But Thanos is swirling at the center of everything, coming off his reintroduction from "Thanos Rising," the five-issue series released this year.

"The stories that Thanos has been involved in all have a certain scale and importance and weight," Hickman said. "That's what we're trying to do here." □

Madam President



MAUREEN DOWD
© 2013 New York Times

President Barack Obama proved himself a great segue artist Friday, as he smoothly glided from his previously unassailable position on the matter of surveillance to his new unassailable position on the matter of surveillance.

There is no moral high ground that he does not seek to occupy. As with drones and gay marriage, he seems peeved that we were insufficiently patient with his own private study of the matter. Why won't the country agree to entrust itself to his fine mind?

Yet while Barry is in the thick of it, the air is thick with Hillary. From the sidelines, she is soaking up a disproportionate amount of attention and energy, as though she were already Madam President.

She is supposed to be resting and off making \$200,000 speeches, but instead she's around every political corner.

The cicadas never showed up. But we can't hear ourselves think here this summer over the roar of the Clinton machine - and the buzzing back to life of old Clinton enemies. Meanwhile, Obama's vaunted campaign machine, which has morphed into a political group called Organizing for Action, has sputtered in its attempt to tear down Republican obstacles and push through his agenda. While Obama seems drained and disgusted at the idea of punching through the Republican blockade that awaits him on his return from Martha's Vineyard, he told Jay Leno that Hillary "had that post-administration glow" when they met for lunch recently.

As the president was getting ready for his news conference, his former secretary of state was dominating the news with an event she didn't even attend. Emily's List held what was, in essence, Hillary's first Iowa campaign event, titled "Madam President" and featuring Claire McCaskill, the Missouri senator who famously broke away from Clinton Inc. to join the Obama revolution in 2008. Now McCaskill, who once said she wouldn't trust Bill Clinton near her daughter, is presciently back in the fold, on board with Ready for Hillary, the super PAC supporting Clinton for 2016.

As ABC News' Michael Falcone reported from Iowa, the state that allowed Obama to vault over Hillary, McCaskill said she's dreaming of "that moment in 2017 when we can say 'Madam President' to Hillary Rodham Clinton."

In a funny echo of Hillary's defense of Bill during the Gennifer Flowers scandal, when she said she wasn't home baking cookies and having teas, McCaskill told the forum it's hard for women to run for office because it's "not sitting down to tea and crumpets." For one thing, McCaskill said, it's awful to go to a department store to buy Spanx and get recognized as a senator.

It's being called Hillary's "shadow campaign." But the shadow campaign actually began when she was secretary of state. Obama granted his former rival special privileges and allowed her to move Hillaryland, with all her loyal image-buffers and political aides, into the State Department intact.

Because he doesn't traffic in the unseemly nitty-gritty of politics that is mother's milk to the Clintons, Obama has been somewhat naive in how he has handled the imagery of their relationship.

West Wing strategists did not totally trust Hillary after the bitter 2008 battle. They thought by pulling the former secretary of state close, Obama could ensure that Hillary was not out there recreating events and decisions or taking more credit than she deserved - as she sometimes did during her 2008 campaign.

So Obama did not seem fully aware, with their cozy joint "60 Minutes" interview and their laughing alfresco lunch at the White House recently, that instead of co-opting Hillary, he looked like he was handing her the White House silver on a silver platter. The Clintons can present those images as Obama passing the torch and bypassing Joe Biden, just as Bill once took a simple handshake from JFK during a Boys Nation visit to the White House and turned it into an Arthurian moment. Many Democrats are hungry to make history again, and they see the first woman president as the natural successor to the first black president. But in other ways, Hillary is not such a natural successor. The Clintons are ends-justify-the-means types with flexible boundaries about right and wrong, while the Obama mystique is the opposite. His White House runs on the idea that if you are virtuous and true and honorable, people will ultimately come to you. (An ethos that sometimes collides with political success.)

It's odd that Obama, who once talked about being a transformational president, did not want to ensure that his allies and his aims were imprinted on the capital. Instead, he has teed up the ball for Hillary. Some of the excitement about Barack Obama was the prospect of making a clean start, after years of getting dragged into the Clintons' dubious ethics and personal messes. Yet Obama ushered in the return of Clinton Inc. and gave it his blessing.

What he doesn't seem to realize yet is that Hillary's first term will be seen, not as a continuation of Obama, but as Bill Clinton's third term. □



Milton Friedman, Unperson



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2013 New York Times

Recently Sen. Rand Paul, potential presidential candidate and self-proclaimed expert on monetary issues, sat down for an interview with Bloomberg Businessweek. It didn't go too well. For example, Paul talked about America running "a trillion-dollar deficit every year"; actually, the deficit is projected to be only \$642 billion in 2013, and it's falling fast.

But the most interesting moment may have been when Paul was asked whom he would choose, ideally, to head the Federal Reserve and he suggested Milton Friedman - "he's not an Austrian, but he would be better than what we have."

The interviewer then gently informed him that Friedman - who would have been 101 years old if he were still alive - is, in fact, dead. OK, said Paul, "Let's just go with dead, because then you probably really wouldn't have much of a functioning Federal Reserve."

Which suggests an interesting question: What ever happened to Friedman's role as a free-market icon? The answer to that question says a lot about what has happened to modern conservatism.

For Friedman, who used to be the ultimate avatar of conservative economics, has essentially disappeared from right-wing discourse. Oh, he gets name-checked now and then - but only for his political polemics,

never for his monetary theories. Instead, Rand Paul turns to the "Austrian" view of thinkers like Friedrich Hayek - a view Friedman once described as an "atrophyed and rigid caricature" - while Paul Ryan, the GOP's de facto intellectual leader, gets his monetary economics from Ayn Rand, or more precisely from fictional characters in "Atlas Shrugged." How did that happen? Friedman, it turns out, was too nuanced and realist a figure for the modern right, which doesn't do nuance and rejects reality, which has a well-known liberal bias.

One way to think about Friedman is that he was the man who tried to save free-market ideology from itself, by offering an answer to the obvious question: "If free markets are so great, how come we have depressions?"

Until he came along, the answer of most conservative economists was basically that depressions served a necessary function and should simply be endured. Hayek, for example, argued that "we may perhaps prevent a crisis by checking expansion in time," but "we can do nothing to get out of it before its natural end, once it has come." Such dismal answers drove many economists into the arms of John Maynard Keynes.

Friedman, however, gave a different answer. He was willing to give a little ground, and admit that government action was indeed necessary to prevent depressions. But the required government action, he insisted, was of a very narrow kind: all you needed was an appropriately active Federal Reserve. In particular, he argued that the Fed could have prevented the Great Depression - with no need for new government programs - if only it had acted to save failing banks and pumped enough reserves into the banking system to prevent a sharp decline in the money supply.

This was, as I said, a move toward

realism (although it looks wrong in the light of recent experience). But realism has no place in today's Republican party: both Paul and Ryan have furiously attacked Ben Bernanke for responding to the 2008 financial crisis by doing exactly what Friedman said the Fed should have done in the 1930s - advice he repeated to the Bank of Japan in 2000. "There is nothing more insidious that a country can do to its citizens," Ryan lectured Bernanke, "than debase its currency."

Oh, and while we're on the subject of debasing currencies: one of Friedman's most enduring pieces of straight economic analysis was his 1953 argument in favor of flexible exchange rates, in which he argued that countries finding themselves with excessively high wages and prices relative to their trading partners - like the nations of southern Europe today - would be better served by devaluing their currencies than by enduring years of high unemployment "until the deflation has run its sorry course." Again, there's no room for that kind of pragmatism in a party in which many members hanker for a return to the gold standard. Now, I don't want to put Friedman on a pedestal.

In fact, I'd argue that the experience of the past 15 years, first in Japan and now across the Western world, shows that Keynes was right and Friedman was wrong about the ability of unaided monetary policy to fight depressions. The truth is that we need a more activist government than Friedman was willing to countenance.

The point, however, is that modern conservatism has moved so far to the right that it no longer has room for even small concessions to reality. Friedman tried to save free-market conservatism from itself - but the ideologues who now dominate the GOP are beyond saving. □

Soriano, The New York Yankees And Father Time

TYLER KEPNER

© 2013 New York Times

When you root for the New York Yankees now, very clearly, you root for the past to flicker to life. The players are familiar from the glory of their younger days. Great older players will say that they still can do what they once did, just not as often. So it is with the Yankees of 2013, and with

before batting practice Wednesday. "I have to work more to keep my body in shape. Before, when I was young, I just came late to the ballpark, just practice and play the game. Now I have to go to the weight room, get loose, do a lot of stuff that I did not do when I used to be young. It's a little different now, but I like it."

but one since then. Developing Soriano helped them land Alex Rodriguez in a trade. Other impact players from the farm system - Robinson Cano in 2005, Brett Gardner in 2008 - ensured that the lineup would have some spots filled with low-cost players, to make the big contracts fit.

"I don't think anybody could expect - because

the Yankees and go on to collect 2,000 career hits, joining Derek Jeter, Bernie Williams and Don Mattingly. He had to approve his trade here from the Chicago Cubs last month and was eager to return to the Bronx.

"This is an organization that likes to win, and I like to win," Soriano said. "So no matter what happens,

more teams sign their own players to long-term extensions.

Without many enticing prospects to deal, the Yankees specialize in acquiring big names that other teams were eager to shed - Ichiro Suzuki last summer, Vernon Wells this spring, and Soriano. They first acquired Soriano in 1998, for five years and \$3.15 million, after he retired from a team in Japan to become a free agent.

For years the Yankees were aggressive internationally, with successes like Soriano, Orlando Hernandez, Hideki Matsui and Chien-Ming Wang.

There were plenty of busts, too, mostly forgotten names like Jackson Melian and Adrian Hernandez.

International signing rules have changed, but other teams have snagged the top free agents in recent years. Yu Darvish, Yasiel Puig, Hyun-Jin Ryu, Aroldis Chapman, Yoenis Cespedes - all of them play elsewhere, some having signed as high-risk gambles based on little, if any, actual game competition.

"The financials have exploded on the international market," Cashman said. "We are very aggressive, but we're trying to be responsible at the same time."

The Yankees' roster still has enough talent to summon past greatness, now and then, and if Soriano stays this hot, he could carry the team for a while. With 23 games left against Boston, Tampa Bay and Baltimore, the Yankees have a chance to make the pennant race interesting.

"We know we have our work cut out for us," manager Joe Girardi said. "We're playing a lot of the teams that are in front of us. We're in our division a lot going down the stretch here. Just try to ride this as long as you can."

That is the theme of these Yankees. When it works, as it has this week, it is a comforting reminder of the talent their stars still possess. But it seems unlikely to work for long. □



New York Yankees left fielder Alfonso Soriano runs after hitting a grand slam during the first inning of an MLB game against the Los Angeles Angels at Yankee Stadium in New York, Aug. 14, 2013. Soriano is one of only four players in the last 60 years to make their debuts with the Yankees and go on to collect 2,000 career hits, joining Derek Jeter, Bernie Williams and Don Mattingly.

(Barton Silverman/The New York Times)

Alfonso Soriano this week. Soriano has homered four times and driven in 13 runs in his previous two games, the latest an 11-3 thrashing of the Angels on Wednesday.

Soriano is 37, three teams removed from his first Yankees tour, when everything seemed possible. Games like these do not come easily.

"It's harder now because of the age," Soriano said

Soriano first joined the Yankees with a dynasty in progress, Sept. 14, 1999, as a pinch-runner for Darryl Strawberry. Ten days later, he hit a game-ending homer, and two years after that, his homer in Arizona in Game 7 of the World Series nearly gave the Yankees a fourth consecutive title.

The Yankees have kept winning, not to that level, but enough to reach the postseason every season

careers are so fleeting - that somebody's going to have a 6-to-10-year run," general manager Brian Cashman said. "I don't think we ever look at it like that, because most players don't put up careers like Soriano has.

He's hit some plateaus recently, but you still look at his career and think, 'Wow.'"

Soriano is one of only four players in the past 60 years to make their debuts with

they're always contenders. I love playing with this organization. I had a fun time playing with other organizations, but it's nothing like the Yankees."

It is reasonable to wonder how long the Yankees will stay contenders, without impact players like the Soriano of 1999 in their farm system.

Free agents are dubious gambles, and fewer good ones are available now as